THE LIBER ALBUS OF THE PRIORY OF WORCESTER,

PARTS I AND II,

PRIORS JOHN DE WYKE, 1301—1317,

AND

WULSTAN DE BRANSFORD, 1317—1339.

FOLIOS I. TO CLXII.

A SHORT ABSTRACT OF ALL THE DOCUMENTS, WITH INDICES TO THE ORIGINAL, AND AN INTRODUCTION

BY

JAMES MAURICE WILSON, D.D.,

VICE-DEAN AND LIBRARIAN OF WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.

With the sanction of the Dean and Chapter.

Printed for the Worcestershire Historical Society,

By MITCHELL HUGHES AND CLARKE, LONDON, E.C. 4.

1919.

THE LIBER ALBUS OF THE PRIORY OF WORCESTER,

PARTS I AND II,

PRIORS JOHN DE WYKE, 1301—1317,

AND

WULSTAN DE BRANSFORD, 1317—1339.

FOLIOS I. TO CLXII.

A SHORT ABSTRACT OF ALL THE DOCUMENTS,
WITH INDICES TO THE ORIGINAL,
AND AN INTRODUCTION

BY

JAMES MAURICE WILSON, D.D.,

VICE-DEAN AND LIBRARIAN OF WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.

With the sanction of the Dean and Chapter.

Printed for the Worcestershire Historical Society,
By MITCHELL HUGHES AND CLARKE, LONDON, E.C. 4.

1919.

This volume is inscribed
to the memory of

AMY MARY WHEELEY LEA,

who thoughtfully and wisely used her wealth for the good of the City and Diocese of Worcester.

A liberal gift from her Trust Fund has enabled the Council of the Worcestershire Historical Society to publish this Volume.

Letters have a closer and more lively representation of business than either Annals or Lives.—BACON.

How wonderfully they call up the atmosphere of the time! Documents are so invaluable: no history, however brilliant, can produce an equal impression.—Letters of T. E. BROWN, vol. ii., p. 61.

PREFACE.

THE Worcestershire Historical Society exists primarily for the purpose of rendering available to historical students some of the hitherto unprinted MS. treasures in the County. One of these treasures is undoubtedly the *Liber Albus* of Worcester Cathedral. Some account of this MS. is given in Section I. of the Introduction to this volume. It is so extensive a MS. that to print it entire with proper indices would require ten or more such volumes as the present, and this is beyond the means of the Council. They have therefore adopted my suggestion that it should be printed in Parts, perhaps four or five in number, as transcribers and editors may be found for them, each Part giving only short abstracts, little more than a table of contents, and furnished with its own index: but that these Parts should be accompanied by MS. volumes containing fuller abstracts, and in many cases complete transcriptions or translations; and that these MS. volumes should be available for use in the Cathedral Library. The indices are therefore made to these MS. volumes, and not to the short printed abstracts. It is hoped that by this arrangement any student will be able readily to see from what is in printed form whether the *Liber Albus* is likely to supply him with what he needs.

The present Volume contains two of such Parts, corresponding to 162 out of 497 folios (which are however much the most closely written folios), and 39 out of 140 years.

I have written an Introduction to the Volume, which will I think give a better conception of the very varied contents of the *Liber Albus* than turning over the leaves of the short abstracts would give. The table of contents of the Introduction will shew how varied those

contents are; and the Introduction will, I hope, be interesting to our members.

It only remains that I should acknowledge the help I have received from friends. I began this work in my 81st year, with little knowledge of the script, and even less of mediæval monastic history. I owe to Dr. Reginald Lane Poole both encouragement and guidance in undertaking it, and unfailing help when I sent him "drawings" of some of the contracted words to which I found no clue. Madame Fautier (late Miss E. C. Jones) found time even in her work as a nurse in hospitals in Paris to translate for me obscure phrases in old French. The Editorial Secretary of our Society, the Rev. R. A. Wilson, besides helping me in interpreting some of the abridged legal documents, such as assize reports, has undertaken the identification of the old place names mentioned. My largest obligation, however, is due to Miss Rose Graham, who has compared all the short printed abstracts with the originals. This was, as may be judged, no light task, even for one so expert in reading this script—of which a specimen is given at the end of the Volume—and so well acquainted with the history of this period. She has also revised my Introduction. I trust that few of my errors, if any, have escaped her; if they have, I pray that my readers will lay them not to her account but to mine.

I must add that Miss Rose Graham and the Secretary have assisted me in the revision of the proofs.

JAMES M. WILSON.

College, Worcester.
October 1919.

[The MS. volumes in the Cathedral Library referred to above are catalogued as "Additional MSS." 107, 108. Transcriptions and translations of many documents will be found in "Additional MSS." 113—118. From these a selection is to be published by the S.P.C.K. under the title "Glimpses of the Life of a Prior of a great Benedictine Monastery in the 14th Century."]

SOME DATES IN THE LIVES OF JOHN DE WYKE AND WULSTAN DE BRANSFORD, AND OF SOME OF THEIR CONTEMPORARIES IN CHURCH AND STATE.

PRIORS.

JOHN DE WYKE, admitted 1 Nov. 1276; chosen one of the seven from whom the Bishop must select the prior in 1287 and 1296; elected Prior 18 July 1301; installed 20 July 1301 (*Ann. de Wig.*). Died 5 Oct. 1317. Buried 10 Oct. 1317.

WULSTAN DE BRANSFORD, admitted 20 Sep. 1310; elected Prior 20 Oct. 1317; three times elected by the monks as Bishop, and on the third occasion confirmed by the Pope, and consecrated 21 March 1339.

BISHOPS OF WORCESTER.

GODFREY GIFFARD, consecrated 23 Sep. 1268. Died 26 Jan. 1302. Buried 4 Feb. 1302.

WILLIAM OF GAINSBOROUGH, consecrated soon after 24 Oct. 1302; enthroned 9 June 1303. Died at Amiens or Beauvais 17 Sep. 1307.

WALTER REYNOLDS, elected by Chapter 13 Nov. 1307; accepted by the Pope 12 Feb. 1308; consecrated 13 Oct. 1308; translated to Canterbury 24 Sep. 1313.

WALTER MAIDSTONE, consecrated 1 Oct. 1313; enthroned 26 April 1314. Died 26 March 1317.

THOMAS COBHAM, consecrated 22 May 1317. Died 27 Aug. 1327.

ADAM ORLETON, translated to Worcester 25 Sep. 1327; translated to Winchester 1333.

SIMON MONTACUTE, consecrated 1333; translated to Ely 1337.

THOMAS HEMENHALE, consecrated 1337. Died 1339.

WULSTAN DE BRANSFORD, consecrated 21 March 1339.

ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY.

ROBERT WINCHELSEY, consecrated 12 Sep. 1293; visited Worcester 20 March 1301.

WALTER REYNOLDS, consecrated 1 Oct. 1313.

SIMON MEOPHAM " 15 Oct. 1328.

JOHN STRATFORD " 23 Aug. 1333.

POPES.

Boniface VIII. . .	24 Dec. 1294—11 Oct. 1303.
Benedict XI. . .	27 Oct. 1303— 6 July 1304.
Clement V. . .	5 June 1305—20 Apr. 1314.
Templars condemned at Council of Vienne 2 May 1311.	
John XXII. . .	7 Aug. 1316— 4 Dec. 1334.
Benedict XII. . .	20 Dec. 1334—25 Apr. 1342.

KINGS OF ENGLAND.

Edward I., 20 May 1272—7 July 1307.

Visited Worcester 1276, 1278, 1281, 1283, 1290, 1291, 1294 (twice), 1295, 1300, 1301.

Parliament met at Worcester in 1282.

Edward II., born 28 April 1284; King 8 July 1307—20 Jan. 1327; married Isabella of France 25 Jan. 1308; Gaveston murdered 1312; battle of Bannockburn 24 June 1314; visited Worcester 1322.

Edward III., King 25 Jan. 1327—21 June 1377.

The Register, *Liber Albus,* begins 5 April 1301.

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF INTRODUCTION.

ERRATA.

P. xxv, line 9. *For* "lecture" *read* "leeturer."

P. xlii, line 2 from bottom. *For* "metterey" *read* "metterez."

P. 79, No. 1066, line 3. *For* "Erdington" *read* "Boroughton."

INTRODUCTION.

SECTION I.

THE *LIBER ALBUS*, ITS HISTORY, NATURE AND CONTENTS.

Among the muniments in the Worcester Cathedral Library is a massive volume of 497 vellum leaves, 13 in. by 9½ in., written at various times during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. It is the letter book of the Prior and Chapter of Worcester, and probably derives its name from its having been bound in white sycamore boards till 1824, when it was rebound in white vellum by Henry Clifton, Chapter Clerk.

It has always been accessible to historians, but it is rarely quoted. Bishop Thomas, in his "Worcester Cathedral," 1737, refers to it a few times; but the Lib. Alb. Episc. Wygorn., to which he sometimes refers, is apparently a different volume.

Wilkins, in "Concilia," ii., 420, prints an inhibition of the King from fol. liii. as *Ex. Reg. Magno Wigorn.*

Valentine Green refers to it three or four times.

Nash, "History of Worcestershire" (vol. ii., App. p. xciv.), calls it the great Register of the Priory, but seldom quotes it.

Noake, in his introduction to "The Monastery and Cathedral of Worcester," p. xxvi., writes that "the book contains 496 leaves of vellum, and has a good index. Its date is from 1301 to 1446, and its contents are copies of charters, mandates, ordinances, inquisitions, sentences, pensions, manumissions, and the general affairs of the temporal possessions of the See." The index, however, which Noake speaks of, occupies only four leaves, and contains fewer than 250 items. It appears to be in seventeenth-century handwriting.

The volume does not seem to have been consulted by the writers of the Victoria County History, or of the Diocesan History; and its unindexed condition, and the difficulty of reading the faint and crowded and small writing of its earlier folios, render it scarcely available.

Dr. Reginald Lane Poole, in the fourteenth Report of the Historical

Manuscripts Commission (appendix, part viii., pp. 176—8), is the first to give a full account of the book. He observes that "it is divided strictly under the administration of successive Priors," and describes its contents as "charters of donation and confirmation, releases and bonds, relative to churches and lands in the gift of the Chapter, letters of appointment for proctors in convocation, numerous deeds of manumission of bondsmen, and some miscellaneous documents."

The late Mr. A. F. Leach turned over its leaves diligently in search of information as to the Cathedral School and the connection of the Monastery with Oxford, and has printed a few documents in his "Early Education in Worcester" (Worc. Hist. Soc. Trans. 1913). He called my attention to a series of about 50 letters relating to Alicia Conan, a lady-in-waiting on Queen Isabella, for whom the King and Queen demanded a corrody. An abstract I made of these letters with Notes and Introduction by Miss Ethel C. Jones appeared in the same Transactions in 1917.

I thought it my duty as librarian to begin an attempt to make abstracts of the documents in the *Liber Albus*, and an index to the contents. That work was begun in April 1917, and has now (April 1919) extended to the first 162 folios, including 1,286 documents belonging to the priorates of John de Wyke and Wulstan de Bransford, in the years 1301—1339. My knowledge of the book is thus entirely limited to the first third of the book.

It is obviously premature to come to any conclusions as to the method of compilation of the *Liber Albus*, even if I were competent to do so, until a much larger fraction of the volume has been read. But a few facts may here be mentioned which will assist in the examination, so far as the earlier folios are concerned.

The book is arranged in quires of unequal numbers of double folios, folded together. The paging at the top is not contemporaneous. For in the first place references are made to back folios, not by their number, but by their distance back; so on folio lii. is a reference to xli. as "xii folio precedenti," and on lxxvi. to lxxii. as "quinto folio precedenti." And, in the second place, some inserted pages of different size and later date are paged. Thus fol. xv. belongs to 1314 and 1333, and is inserted between folios of 1302 and 1303. Many inserted documents are unpaged, and bound in with no universal reference to date; for example, 749 belonging to 1301 is inserted after lxxxii. of 1317.

There is a partial and irregular paging in large figures in the middle of the bottom margin, from ii. to vii. on folios 95, 107, 112, 131, 142, and 151; and some, folios 105—118, are numbered also at the bottom right hand corner.

There would seem to have been a misplacement of folios between cxlii. and clxii., in which group folios cxlv.—cl. belong to 1336—1338, while those that precede and follow them belong to 1332 to 1335. Some documents, *e.g.*, manumissions, are entered on any back folio where there chanced to be a small margin at the bottom. Some documents, such as 745—8 belonging to 1309 are entered on blank pages after the death of John de Wyke in 1317. It may be conjectured that these and 749 were found among his papers after his death.

A more important question is how far the entries were contemporary with the events. There appears to me evidence that in some cases they were not. In several cases consecutive folios are written apparently by the same hand and in the same ink, and perhaps at the same time; and in these folios some of the documents are misplaced. For example, 120 is of the same date as 58, and written from the same place; 90 was written in March 1300. Some of the group 110—122 are out of place; 313 is earlier than 309; 399 than 397; 403—6 belong to 1303—5, and are inserted in 1308; 524, 5 are repeated in 629, 630; 1242, 3 are almost verbatim the same. The group 444—452 is quite out of order. Sometimes, as in 560, a space is left blank for a letter described in the margin. These and similar observations suggest to me that every now and then a professional writer was engaged to enter up a group of documents, and that he sometimes chose an order for them without much care. I must bequeath this problem to my successors.

Another interesting question is who was responsible for keeping the book and writing the letters. In 839 the correspondent is distinctly called the *Capellanus*, in contradistinction to *Cancellarius*, the title used by the Abbot of Ramsey; and in the Liber itself the names of John de Stratford and Adam of Cirencester appear in large handwriting with the title of Capellanus. Miss Rose Graham suggests with much probability that the prior's chaplain was responsible for entering letters in the Liber; and in support of her conjecture she quotes Archbishop Winchelsey's Injunctions from *Historia et Cartularium Monasterii S. Petri Gloucestriæ*, Rolls Series, vol. i., p. lxxxv. *Scripta vero super hiis (i.e.*, pensions and corrodies) *non signentur nisi in præsentia totius conventus; et registrentur omnia talia scripta priusquam petitoribus liberentur. Ita tamen quod scriptorum omnium sigillo communi, sive ad causas unanimi consensu signatorum, transcriptum fiat per capellanum abbatis, quod in thesaurario diligentius reservetur.*

Another problem that I must bequeath to my successors who complete the examination of the *Liber Albus*, is its relation to a MS. volume in the Record Office described there erroneously as a Cartulary of Worcester Priory. It is labelled "Miscellaneous books, No. 63." On

the modern binding are printed the words *Liber Eccl. Wigorn.*; and quite recently the book has been relettered "Worcester Cathedral Cartulary." It has been transcribed and edited by the Rev. J. Harvey Bloom for the Worc. Hist. Soc. Transactions for 1912. I may, I hope, be pardoned for mentioning that Mr. Bloom did me the honour to dedicate to me this very interesting work.

It contains 69 folios of 8½ inches by 5½ inches, and is therefore only about one-twentieth of the size of the *Liber Albus*, and it covers a period of about half the length, the first 75 years of the fourteenth century. It is of the same nature as the *Liber Albus*, a letter-book of the prior's, but less carefully written and less complete. Until both volumes have been more completely read and compared in detail it is not safe to conjecture what connection, if any, they had with one another.

I ought perhaps here to remark that there are occasional corrections in the MS. which suggest that it is a draft, rather than a copy, of the letter actually sent.

It only remains that I should say a few words as to the contents of the Liber so far as I have read them.

Its historical value lies chiefly in the glimpses that it affords of the life and concerns of a great cathedral chapter and prior of a cathedral monastery at this period. Its contents are extremely varied. The fact of the priory of Worcester being the Cathedral monastery of the Diocese gave it a unique position. Not only did the Prior of Worcester act for the Bishop during vacancies of the See, but the Chapter of the Priory is the Bishop's chapter, and their consent was necessary in many transactions in which their interest was very remote. If the Bishop, for example, leased land in his own manors, the deed was inspected by the prior and chapter and was confirmed by them. If the Bishop was asked (as in 531) to appropriate a church to the use of the convent of St. Augustine's, Bristol, though neither church nor convent had any other connection with the priory except that of being in the same diocese with them, their consent and confirmation were canonically required.

For the same reason the Prior and Chapter of Worcester become the medium of communication for the supreme authorities both in Church and State with the whole diocese. Letters therefore affecting the whole diocese come to them from the Pope and Cardinals, and their collectors and sub-collectors; from the Archbishop; from the King, and Chancellor and Sheriff and other officials. The *Liber Albus* therefore gives us a view of the working of the Church on much wider lines than those of a journal which concerns only a single Benedictine

monastery. It shews how the Prior is involved in the full stream of events.

On the other hand, it must be remembered that there are many sides of conventual life which do not involve correspondence or legal documents, and therefore are not referred to in a letter book. Very little can be inferred from anything told us here as to the interior life and routine of the convent; of its worship, studies, library, music, manual work; and very little reference is made to repairs, visitors, discipline, obedientaries. It is not a Customary. No reference is made to obits. Hence the view that the book gives us of the activities of a prior is quite partial and incomplete.

Further, it may be observed that we cannot judge as to the completeness of the record even of those matters which are often entered, such as manumissions, admission of monks, presentations to livings. The book is not a register. No statistics can be deduced from it.

But it furnishes interesting miscellaneous reading.

SECTION II.

THE CHARACTERS OF JOHN DE WYKE AND WULSTAN DE BRANSFORD, AND THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THEIR LIVES.

Of the earlier life of prior John de Wyke little, I believe, can be ascertained. He became a monk on All Saints Day 1276, and he must have soon become distinguished for his ability; for besides filling various offices, he was one of the seven chosen by the chapter in 1287, and again in 1296, from whom one was to be nominated Prior by the Bishop. That he was a man of some learning may be inferred from our Library of MSS. His name occurs in F. 37 as the donor of the volume, along with Thomas of Sedgebarrow; and in Q. 42 he is associated with others as a joint donor. After his election as prior in 1301 he rarely left the priory to go further than Grimley or Alvechurch or Woodhall, except that one letter, 474, is dated from London. He wrote to excuse himself from all meetings to which he was summoned, whether of Parliament or General and Provincial Councils, General Chapters of the Benedictine Order or other Conferences, and sent some one of the brethren or a legal expert to represent him as his proctor.

He was plainly efficient as an administrator, except perhaps in finance; wise and courteous in his dealings; after a time on good terms with the chapter which he found in much disorder; a man of peace, but tenacious of the rights of the monastery against all comers, whether King, or Bishop, or non-resident Italian Archdeacons; and careful of the honour of the monastery even when forced to consent to jobs which he disapproved of. He was an honourable man of his time.

We cannot picture him justly except against his historical background. That must be kept in mind as we read the documents. John de Wyke's Priorate fell in evil days.

Glance first at the Popes with whom as Prior he was contemporary. Boniface VIII. was Pope when John de Wyke became Prior, and he died in 1303. He was an able statesman and knew England well, and he lived in difficult times. But his biographers do not conceal his want of probity and his arrogance, and say that "his ambition was as boundless as his avarice." "He left almost countless treasures to his relatives," is the final comment of one biographer. His successor, Benedict XI. was Pope only for a few months, and then died, it was surmised, by poison.

Then our prior would hear of the obstinate struggle between the French and Italian parties in the College of Cardinals, and its termination by a masterpiece of cunning, forced on them by Philip IV., by which the Archbishop of Bordeaux secured his election as Clement V. Our prior saw the beginning of what became known as "the Babylonish Captivity," the residence of the Popes out of Italy; he witnessed the unjust and cruel extinction of the Knights Templars, and the constant and grievous exactions in England till Clement V. died in 1314. Two years elapsed before the College of Cardinals could agree on a successor, and then they chose John XXII., a great canonist and logician, but superstitious and cruel. He was succeeded in 1334 by Benedict XII.

Our prior was more fortunate in his experience of Archbishops. He would remember Kilwardby and Peckham. Robert of Winchelsey was his primate till 1313, and of his diligence, uprightness and courage our prior would have no doubt. But there is nothing to shew that the next appointment surprised or shocked him. The Chapter of Canterbury had elected as Archbishop a man of singular eminence for learning and character and of noble family, Thomas Cobham. But the King induced the Pope to set the election aside, and to appoint Walter Reynolds, then Bishop of Worcester, "a mere creature of Court favour," as Stubbs describes him. We may probably connect with this transaction two others: the Pope's sanction of the new Archbishop's contracting a loan

for 15,000 gold florins (Papal Letters, ii., 121), and the King's payment to the Pope of 32,000 marks.

John de Wyke lived under five Bishops of Worcester. The old Godfrey Giffard was his bishop for six months, failing in health, tortured by gout, but keeping hold of the reins. Then followed William of Gainsborough, of whose work in the diocese the *Liber* tells us little, and Walter Reynolds who spent little time in it. Against both of these the Prior had firmly to defend his rights. Then came Walter Maidstone, apparently peaceful and diligent, and Thomas Cobham, with whom our Prior, now failing in health, does not seem to have corresponded.

His successor as Prior, Wulstan de Bransford, was a clear headed and resolute man of business, sent as such to London with John de Stratford in 1313*; very attentive to forms of law; successful in all his law suits, harsh to his debtors (784), very courteous to his creditors (766—788). He writes a pleasant letter to a friend (1168) to invite him to spend Christmas at the priory; but shews rudeness in his correspondence (834—839) with the Abbot of Ramsey, and seems uncourteous to the Abbot of Westminster (1184). He was on good terms with the King, Edward III., but resisted him with success in law suits.

He found the priory burdened with debt; perhaps for this reason he greatly extended a custom which appears to have begun shortly before, of accepting a ready money payment in return for a promise of a corrody for life. It was a species of gambling on life insurance. Thus the corrodies granted in 1160, 1205, 1215 were bought for £10, 126 marks and 24 marks respectively. Letter 801 is interesting, in which he defends the right of the private tutor against the claim of the *Rector Scholarum* of Coventry.

He must have been popular with the chapter, as he was three times elected by them as bishop, but his election was set aside till 1339, when he was accepted and consecrated. He died as Bishop of Worcester 6 Aug. 1349.

Of the civil history of England during our two priors' tenure of office it is not needful to speak. The period includes the end of the reign of Edward I. and the beginning of that of Edward III. Everyone remembers the contests between king and barons, between king and church, and between all three and Rome ; the fatal ascendency of favourites in the reign of Edward II.; the desolating wars with Scotland; and the outbreaks of violence and disorder everywhere. All this is faithfully reflected in our *Liber*.

* Early Compotus Rolls. Worc. Hist. Soc. 1908, p. 39.

The interest and value of this letter book is not, however, to be looked for in the personal character of the priors, but in the many glimpses it affords of the actual state of national and Church life at that period, and in particular of the varied matters that came before the priors, and the management of a great monastery.

SECTION III.

THE CONVENT'S RELATIONS TO THE KING.

The direct relation of the king at that period to our convent is chiefly illustrated by letters relating to the collection of the tenth granted to the king (873), and to "liveries"—*liberationes*—or corrodies, and by his requests for help in his Scotch wars, and by requests for pensions or benefices for his friends and favourites.

Edward I. was on very friendly terms with the Priory. He was a frequent visitor, and he was also a benefactor; and the chapter conferred on him their highest honour by admitting him to membership of their spiritual "Fraternity." This made him a sharer in the benefits of all their prayers during his life, and after his death it secured him a place in their Martyrology and a special commemoration on every anniversary of the day of his death. The letters 388, 389 that passed between Queen Margaret and the Prior on the death of Edward I. illustrate this close friendship.

The letters 40, 41 in the year 1301 shew that the prior could refuse the King's request for a corrody. But in 1305 the King writes (353) that he had long ago begged the convent to give a corrody to his yeoman —*valettus*—John le Treour, and they had done nothing. He now writes a command—*vous mandoms et chargeoms*—and prescribes that John is to have "a room and his board, and 18*s*. for his clothes, as he had when in the King's service." In 358 the corrody is granted—*ex mandato domini Regis Edwardi.*

In the case of Nicholas de Renty in A.D. 1314, there is a request from the King which is at once granted. In the copy of the deed *ad instantiam regis* is crossed out and *ad rogatum* substituted.

Over John the Barber in A.D. 1316 there was something of a trial of strength. The King requests (702), but the prior replies that the house is so near ruin—*tant pre a son desontz*—that they must refuse,

The King rejects the excuse. The prior repeats it. Once more, in 712, the King requests—*vous prioms derechef*—and the prior again refuses. Then the King summons the prior to appear personally before him and explain why he has not obeyed his command. This is effectual. John the Barber, who was a leper—a *grand abhominacioun*—is admitted.

In 881, 2, and 897—9 the King asks for a corrody for Peter Davillers: and on his death a long dispute begins over a corrody asked by the King and Queen for Alicia Conan, a lady in waiting. It includes fifty letters between 958 and 1125, and was brought at last into the law-courts and decided in favour of the prior. (See Worc. Hist. Soc. Tr. for 1917.)

I pass on to the King's requests for help in his war with the Scots. In 308 the prior says he has to pay the King 100 marks at once, but no reason is assigned. The King's first request (461) is in August 1309. He asks for carriages for provisions. The convent sent him two waggons and draught horses. In June 1310 the King appoints (485) a commission, and issues a writ to all the prelates, religious, bailiffs, ministers, and the faithful. He explains that the kingdom is *in molt grant peril par l'engressete de nos enemis,* and requests *que vous voillez nous eider de prest,* that is with the loan of certain supplies—60 quarters of wheat, 40 of ground barley, 20 oxen, and 100 sheep. They are to certify him of the price, and he will send letters patent ordering the repayment at Candlemas, *a la Chandeleur.* There is a shrewd note in the margin: *Regia exactio subsidii religiosorum sub nomine mutui.*

In 486 our Prior consults the Archbishop "in the present unheard of exactions." The Abbot of Gloucester writes that the royal indignation is to be feared, but that to yield will be a dangerous precedent. Our prior's reply, after consulting the chief houses, is that the only wise course—*hoc solum sanum reputamus consilium*—is to tell the King that "we hold ourselves entirely excused; since, without infringing the liberty of the Church, we can make no other reply." This reply is sent to the King in 492.

But now Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, steps in and demands carriages. The prior refuses; the King writes again, and the prior sends him two waggons and horses to Tewkesbury by Aug. 12, and sends him also £40. In the spring of 1311 the King writes from Berwick for more carriages, and the prior (519) sends 20 marks, "hoping that this gift, small in itself but great in relation to our estate, will be acceptable. Let your very dear Highness learn that we are all by divers accidents and expenses so burdened that scarce can we hold up our heads."

There are later requests; one of which (935—9) is of special interest, in which the King asks for "strong fighting men" to defend the Marches. The correspondence throws much light on the disturbed state of the country, and incidentally shews that Edward II. visited the priory.

In connection with these demands of the King, the clergy had met in 1314 to consider such subsidies (631). But, in the meantime, the Archbishop had taken action. He reports to the clergy through the Bishop of London, that the King had by his writs ordered the seizure of the goods and victuals of the inhabitants of the realm (511). "This," he writes, "he could in no way tolerate." He therefore wrote to the Earl of Lincoln, Custos of the Kingdom; and he had promised to withdraw the writs, and instruct the Sheriffs "that no man's goods might be taken against his will." The Archbishop summons the provincial council to meet in St. Paul's early in December 1310, to see whether they could assist the King by forestalling the payments of the tenth due to the King, by paying them some months in advance.

The only correspondence with Edward III. that need be mentioned is 1134—7. The King pressed the prior to admit a young friend of his as a monk. The prior makes enquiries as to his character, and refuses to accept him. The King entirely accepts the prior's decision. It is a correspondence creditable to both.

SECTION IV.

THE CONVENT'S RELATIONS TO THE POPE AND THE COURT OF ROME.

These are well illustrated in the *Liber*, but only a few illustrations can be given here.

In October 1301, the executors of the Apostolic See demand (22), under ecclesiastical censures, a payment to the King of £4 17*s*. 5*d*., being arrears of tenths due to the King which had been granted him by the Pope for six years in 1288. In December 1303, we learn that the King orders his collectors to enforce the payment to him of arrears of a tenth imposed for three years on the Clergy by Boniface VIII. with the King's assent. Pope and King agreed to share this tax equally (the King pleading (157) urgent needs), with the further condition that if the Pope died before the three years had expired, the whole was to go

to the King. The Pope *had* died in October, and the clergy were remiss in their payments. The King exacts the whole under threat of seizing houses and chattels.*

The Clergy belonged simultaneously to two parallel systems, one of the Church, the other of the State. They were the Pope's men as Clergy, the King's as subjects. Hence the struggle between Edward I. and Winchelsey. An incident in this struggle is shewn in 545—7. The King wrote in May 1312 to the heads and proctors of those religious houses in the province of Canterbury which were in royal patronage, who were shortly to meet in London to discuss a certain tax on them to be announced by the Archbishop. The King straitly forbade them to consent to any such tax. It would seem that our *Liber* is the only authority for this letter. It is printed (as mentioned in Section I.) in Wilkins, *Concilia* (ii., 420) as *Ex Reg. magno Wigorn.*, and Dr. Poole tells me it is not entered in the Close Rolls. Nevertheless, on May 22 the Provincial Council, summoned by the Archbishop, levies a tax of 4*d.* in the mark (2½ p.c.) on all ecclesiastical persons subject to his jurisdiction in the province. It was to be "a reserve Fund"—*aliquale depositum*—to meet urgent needs of the Church; an anticipation of the "Central Church Fund" of 1918. There were precedents for it. In 54 there is a letter from the prior to Francis, Archdeacon of Worcester, dated 21 Dec. 1301, in which he mentions, among other charges on the monastery, the *quatuor denarios de marca ad opus Ecclesie Cantuariensis.* This was a subsidy to the Archbishop.† But on June 16, 1313, we learn from Wilkins (*Concilia,* ii., 426) that the King ordered that since Church and State were both in peril, all that had been paid of this levy should go to the war. Our *Liber,* it may be added, shews that the 4*d.* in the mark was enforced; for in 594 we see that the Rector of Tredington on 2 Aug. 1313 had been excommunicated and imprisoned for non-payment of this levy.

The Archdeacons of Worcester at this period were Italians. Francis, Cardinal-Deacon of Santa Lucia in Silice, was Archdeacon from 1288 to 1312, and was succeeded by another Italian, who farmed the office to the prior and convent for 90 marks a year. (Ann. Monast. iv., p. 502, footnote.) Francis writes from Anagni on 1 Aug. 1301 to ask the prior to pay in full to his *mercatores* his fees and the income from Claverdon. The prior replies at some length: "Many rectors

* Dr. Poole writes that the details of this transaction are complicated, but that they have been worked out by an American Historian, Mr. W. E. Lunt. *Cf.* Eng. Hist. Review, xxviii., pp. 313—321.

† *Cf.* Registrum Simonis de Gandavo Episcopi Saresbiriensis (Cant. and York Soc.), p. 47. R.G.

and vicars refuse to pay: the archdeacon has proposed no remedy." But in 63 the Archdeacon replies that 117 marks and £40 are still owing, and threatens public excommunication both in Rome and in England, and declares that the prior shall be summoned to Rome in person. He will have his full rights: and from 265 it is plain that he got them.

Another Cardinal-Deacon in 766 (A.D. 1317) makes the request that since a young friend of his had lost all his ecclesiastical income through the Scotch war, the convent should allow him an income on which he can live like a gentleman—*honeste.* The prior courteously refuses.

But the demands made by the Collector for the Pope are more frequent and more serious, and the letters shew how they were resented. Evesham (566) complains of burdens imposed *a partibus transmarinis et cismarinis;* and Malvern, in 643 (see also 795, 803, 811), speaks of the *prevalens impositio summorum pontificum.* The demands are *in subsidium Romane ecclesie,* and *in subsidium terre sancte,* of course backed by the usual threats.

In 365 we have the citation sent to all the Rural Deaneries by two Chaplains of the Pope, the Archdeacon of Arens and a Canon of Rouen, for the payment of firstfruits and other dues.* All rectors, vicars, and the religious of all orders, accompanied by four trustworthy men from each parish, are summoned to give detailed accounts of legacies, fines paid on redemption of vows to go to the Holy Land, contracts, promises, etc. It may be interesting to give this in the original—*ac etiam super omnibus que ex testamentis ac votis, seu votorum redemptoribus, tam crucesignatorum quam aliorum quoviscunque sancte terre subsidio aut aliter ipsi Romane ecclesie in eisdem partibus quacunque ratione seu causa quavislibet debentur, puram et meram veritatem dicturi, ulteriusque facturi in illa parte quod sit justum.* Then follows an exhaustive list in 366 of questions not only as to firstfruits of livings, whether paid and to whom, but as to the names of all who have taken the cross—*crucesignati*—and as to Peter's pence, and all other dues to the Roman Church.

Demands unexpected and unwelcome pour in. In 477 the Cardinal of St. Sabina asks for contributions towards the cost of the General Council held in Vienne in 1311; and the poor prior, groaning under tenths, and unheard of exactions, and the insecurity of the land, sends 20 marks.

The prior is ordered to sequestrate all rents and the goods of

* *Cf.* W. E. Lunt, the first levy of Papal annates, American Hist. Review, xviii., 48—64. R.L.P.

defaulters, and a list of them is sent; but in 509 he gives a brave reply. "Of those whose names appear in the lower part of the schedule the benefices are so small that beyond the support of their own priests, and meeting the burdens necessarily imposed on them, nothing, as we have frequently certified you, can be raised without depriving the Church of their services, which we do not believe you wish."

The vexation must have been intolerable. Rigaud de Asserio sequestrates (834) Prior Wulstan's personal goods on his appointment as prior in order to ensure his claim on firstfruits; and every claim is enforced by excommunications, to be announced in their own Churches and other public places on Sundays and feast days, till the claim has been paid. In 586, in April 1313, the demand for tenths is made for the Holy Land, and our prior is to "warn and exhort all ecclesiastical persons, religious and secular, exempt and non-exempt, abbots, priors, deans, archdeacons, provosts, archpresbyters, and other prelates of churches, and the chapters, colleges and convents of Cistercians, Cluniacs, Premonstratensians, Benedictines, Augustinians, Carthusians, Grandemontensians, and of all other orders receiving ecclesiastical income to pay before Pentecost." Two months later a demand comes from Arnaldus, Cardinal Priest of St. Prisca, for procurations. All ecclesiastical persons whose total income reaches £200 are to pay 12 marks. All others to pay 3*d.* a mark. The usual threat to the deans follows—*si tepidi fueritis vel remissi.*

Two months later again in August, William de Balaeto, Archdeacon of Fréjus, in 597, summons them all to pay their quota of his stipend, as Apostolic Nuncio: he claims 7*s.* a day.

It is from such iteration as this that we learn how the continued exactions from Rome irritated and impoverished the clergy and the religious houses at this time, and alarmed the laity as to the result of sending so much money out of the country.

SECTION V.

THE CONVENT'S RELATION TO THE ARCHBISHOP.

The *Liber* well illustrates the diligent and minute supervision over the Church exercised by Robert of Winchelsey, the Archbishop of Canterbury. In the spring of 1301, during the four months he spent in the diocese of Worcester, the Archbishop personally visited the

monastery, arriving in the city on 14 March. At the close of the Visitation on 20 March, the *dies tribulationis et increpationis*,* as it was henceforward called, he dealt severely with the monks, deposing the Subprior, the Precentor, the Chamberlain, the Sacrist, the third Prior and Pitancer, and confining the three last officials within their walls for a year:† and he followed this up, cancelling (7) the reappointment of the Sacrist by Bishop Godfrey Giffard, corresponding about the monks undergoing penance, and clearing others from unfounded charges. He had noticed on his visit that Godfrey Giffard had built a solid and costly tomb for himself close to the south end of the principal altar, so as to interfere with the services, and in 58 he orders it *totaliter demoliri* within eight days. He decides (2) the acute dispute between a former monk, John of Dumbelton, who had become prior of Little Malvern in 1299, and had resigned the priorate and now wished to return to Worcester, and the whole convent of Worcester, who declared that he was so quarrelsome that his return would break up the monastery, and further, that he had renounced all his rights there.‡ When Godfrey Giffard is dying, and his property is being plundered, it is the Archbishop who promptly interferes and orders the sequestration of the property.

On the death of Godfrey the chapter, with leave from the King, elect John of St. German. The story of his being set aside by the Pope in favour of William of Gainsborough is told in the *Annales Wig.*, p. 555, and is repeated by Bishop Thomas and others. But the Archbishop's letter, 749, dated 22 June 1303, preserved in the *Liber* throws fresh light on the affair. It is too long to print here entire. "It was impossible," he writes, "for me to confirm this election owing to a manifest defect." And he is most indignant at the slanderous charges which some of the monks have brought against Gilbert of Madeley the Sacrist, and John of Harley, the cellerar, in this matter, and orders the prior publicly to free them from all blame. He orders the prior also "to excommunicate in full chapter those schismatical and insulting breakers of your religious peace who have been guilty of this slander. They are also for a time to be kept apart from their brethren, lest the whole of the Lord's flock be infected with the con-

* *Annales Monastici*, iv., pp. 548, 9.

† The fullest information on this subject will be found in a paper by Miss Rose Graham, published in the Transactions of the Royal Historical Society, Fourth Series, vol. ii., as "The Metropolitical Visitation of the Diocese of Worcester by Archbishop Winchelsey."

‡ Register of Bishop Giffard. Ed. J. W. Willis Bund, p. 513. Ann. Mon., iv., pp. 542, 548.

tagion; and when they have come to their senses they may be sent to me for absolution."

Such an incident as this illustrates the diligence of the Archbishop's rule.

It is interesting to read, in 53, that the Archbishop had noticed, and now entirely prohibits, the excessive demands made on the hospitality of monasteries by the officials of the bishop in holding consistory courts. "The officials remained for 3, 4, and often for 8 days against the wishes and protests of the religious, entirely at the cost of the monastery." This was especially the case at Worcester, Gloucester, Lanthony, Bristol, and Cirencester. The officials, he said, had no claim. The reception was *ex mera liberalitate.* This decision was protested against by the bishop, but was appealed to (672) as authoritative, until it was reversed by the Pope in 1307 (Papal Letters, ii., p. 26).

We find the Archbishop inspecting muniments both in person (140) and by deputy (725), to see that they are sufficient, and he is appealed to (442) in a dispute between prior and bishop.

One of the most interesting documents is 546 of May 22, 1312, the Archbishop's mandate ordering prayers and litanies to be said everywhere for peace. "He longs for peace and tranquillity, *scimus enim non nisi tempore pacis bene colitur pacis auctor.* This famous kingdom of England used to rejoice in the beauty of peace. It is now afflicted *dissidiorum vepribus et dissensionum scandalis. . . .* But since the God of pity, even in his just wrath remembers mercy . . . we order that solemn processions shall be held . . . in which the faithful shall move God to pity by their prayers." On Wednesdays and Fridays alternately such processions are to be held in every parish. Archbishop Winchelsey is plainly a powerful and gracious influence in the Church life of the time. He was a scholar also and a theologian, and he "ruled with diligence."

Of his successors we read little in the *Liber Albus.* A summons (955) to Convocation issued in December A.D. 1322 by Walter Reynolds illustrates the anxiety felt at the invasion of England by the Scots. *Cum non modico exercitu bellatorum partem maximam regionis Anglie sunt ingressi, adeo quod totam fere partem illam depopulando inhumaniter devastarunt.* He summons bishops, deans, abbots, priors and proctors to Lincoln. "Things which concern all should be approved by all; and in this case the necessity is manifest and unprecedented, the danger urgent, and demands the prompt consideration of all."

SECTION VI.

THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF BENEDICTINE HOUSES IN THE PROVINCE.

Our *Liber* shews that among the authorities which controlled and otherwise influenced the priory from outside, beside the King and his sheriff, the Court of Rome with its Cardinals and nuncios and collectors, and their own Archbishop, there was another authority on which the letters in this book may throw some light. This is the General Chapter of the Benedictine Houses in the Province of Canterbury.

This Chapter, consisting of representatives of all the houses, met at least once in three years and elected its own Presidents. These two Presidents, in the intervals between the meetings, exercised some supervision over the conduct of the monasteries. At each Chapter visitors were appointed to visit all the monasteries and report to the next Chapter. These were considered as papal visitors from the words in the decretal of Innocent III. in the Lateran council of 1215—16, *vice nostra studeant visitare.* If any abuses calling for the removal of abbot or prior were discovered, the visitors referred the case to the bishop. If he refused to act they were bound to take the matter to Rome.

Our *Liber* contains various references to these visitors. In 16 the Abbot of Westminster, one of the Presidents, asks the prior to allow one of his monks, W. de Grimley, to visit the Benedictine Monasteries in the dioceses of Salisbury, Bath and Wells, and Exeter, in company with the precentor of Tewkesbury, as was arranged at the General Chapter in Oxford in 1300, and the prior is asked to provide him with money to meet his expenses. So from 848 we gather that the visitors were expected to pay their own expenses. But in this instance it was objected to, and each house visited was expected to contribute to the cost of horses and carriage.

From the correspondence in 849—857 we learn that the visitors could not lawfully be appointed by the President, but only by the Chapter; and that the dates of visitation were arranged for mutual convenience.

Illustrations may be given of the action of the General Chapter. It is they who decide what is to be done with the quarrelsome John of Dumbelton, the ex-prior of Little Malvern (13, 60). For a time, at least, the Convent of Worcester is to pay him 5 marks a year, and he

is to reside at Oxford or some Benedictine House other than Worcester. They reviewed the sentences of penance imposed by the Archbishop on one or two of the Worcester monks at the time of his visitation. "*Quantum in nobis est,*" they write in 14 "we relax, mitigate and absolve those brethren from the rest of their penance"; but it is a request, urging reasons: *ne ceteri lapsi, de venia desperantes, redire ad gremium ecclesie pertimescant;* and bidding him remember the Lord Jesus, "*qui lapsis et errantibus facilem se prebuit indulgendo.*"

Correspondence as to the want of a lecture on Holy Scripture has been printed from another source by the late Mr. A. F. Leach in his paper on "Early Education in Worcester" (Worc. Hist. Soc. Tr. for 1912).

We learn from 471, 472, 657, that the attendance at these meetings of the General Chapter was very bad; and for a time the meetings were suspended, and (1143) the reason given is the disturbed state of the country. Writing in February 1328, the Abbot of Ramsey summons a General Chapter to meet in Abingdon. "For a long time the English Church has had its peace disturbed and has been grievously pressed and harassed, so that the Saviour of the Universal Church, unmoved by the cries of His disciples, has seemed not only to have been sleeping amid the stormy waves, but even to have deserted the ship; but the Lord has now provided most fit rulers, both in the temporal and spiritual arm, so that the ends of the earth may see His Salvation . . . . The sons of the Church should therefore rejoice . . . . As the Chapter has not met for a long time, you are bound to meet with the more fervent desire."

SECTION VII.

THE CONVENT AND ITS BISHOPS.

In describing external authorities over the Convent it only remains to speak of the Bishop. In early days the Bishop was the Abbot of the Monastery. But when he ceased to reside there the prior became the acting head. Experience and convenience and custom, not without disputes, had established certain understandings as to their mutual powers: but there was still debateable ground, and Bishop and Prior watched with jealous eyes any apparent encroachment.

Godfrey Giffard was the first Bishop under whom John de Wyke served as Prior, and Willis Bund in his Introduction to "Giffard's

Register" (Worc. Hist. Soc. Tr.), gives the story of that great Bishop's relation to this "his most rebellious house." He only outlived the prior's appointment six months. Some incidents of his relations with the convent have been told in Section V. We learn from 121, a confidential letter to the prior (out of its place) from someone in the Bishop's household, that the Bishop had at first conceived a personal dislike of the Prior, and by preference invited the Sub-prior to dine with him; but his informant assured him that "this rancour would gradually change to love." So it did, for in 30 there is a charming letter from the old Bishop inviting John to dine with him on "some fat venison, and an equally fat crane, which had by chance been given him, *quas nolumus comedi sine vobis.*"

With William of Gainsborough some fencing, if not disputes, began at once, on his visitation (141), on the question whether the Bishop might be accompanied by two laymen and a notary.* The Bishop shortly afterwards accuses two of the brethren of misconduct; the Prior defends them and appeals to Canterbury and Rome. The Bishop intrigues with disaffected members of the Convent; casts doubt on the validity of the Prior's election; appoints a commission of enquiry into the matter, in the course of which it appears that some important documents had been stolen; some monks confessed to the theft, and the documents were restored, it would seem, by a Dominican named Cestenlade of Gloucester. The Prior withdraws some statements. The Commission reports wholly in favour of the Prior, and peace is restored.

A few years later (357) the Bishop, returning from France, begs the Convent to send him a pack-horse. They do so with congratulations on his escape from the *pericula viarum,* and apologies for sending "so poor and skinny" a beast—*tam modicus et exilis.*

The dispute with the next Bishop, Walter Reynolds, is of more importance to the historian. 401 shews that the Bishop's claim to grant, and therefore to withhold, leave to the Convent to appoint one of the two keepers of the shrines is admitted.* The letters 436—442 shew that the Bishop, who was also chancellor, was a formidable antagonist. He had succeeded in establishing in the Court of Arches two claims that seriously affected the Convent. One was that the Bishop had the control, as well as the appointment, of the Sacrist; and the other that his officials might claim support or entertainment—*exhibitio*—at the Monastery. The correspondence with the legal advisers of the Convent, J. Bloyon and Andrew of Bridgenorth, is inter-

* See Thomas, Worcester Cathedral, App., p. 76.

esting. "We should be unwilling," the prior writes, "to incur the dislike of the Bishop, unless in the interests of the Church we could secure the rights mentioned above." He urges his advisers "to keep the matter secret unless success is certain." He writes to the Archbishop to ask for support in getting these decisions reversed. "By ourselves we cannot resist so great a man." From Papal Letters (ii., p. 26) the Pope appears to support the Bishop.

The relations with the other Bishops seem to have been friendly. But the right of the Bishop to appoint the sacrist is again claimed in A.D. 1335 by Bishop Simon de Montacute (1283). The letter is so interesting, as bearing on the sacrist's charge of building operations, that I quote it at some length. He had visited the monastery (1198) in April 1334. After saying that he had appointed by his letters patent Simon Crumpe as sacrist, and had no intention of removing him from that office, the Bishop continues:—

"But you, as we have lately learned, have appointed the said brother Simon as your Cellerar, perhaps with at least an indirect intention of frustrating our wise purpose in this matter. For this reason we wish by the tenor of these presents to make it known to you as before, that as long as your brother aforesaid is giving good and laudable service in hastening forward the building—*ad expeditionem fabrice*—of the church of Worcester our spouse, we will not remove him from the office of sacrist because you have entrusted to him the office of cellerar, without some other clear reason.

"But we will allow him for a time to fill that office along with that of sacrist until you have provided another cellerar, which we hope will be soon. We beg that for the glory of God and for your own furtherance, as you desire that in all your business you shall have the advantage of your brother's diligence, so for the advancement of the fabric already spoken of, and that of the office of the sacristy, you will willingly assist our sacrist aforesaid." Alvechurch, 18 Feb. [1335].

Simon Crumpe became prior in 1339, and died in 1340. The building referred to was probably the rebuilding of part of the north arcade and aisle of the nave. Cobham had rebuilt the two eastern bays, and the work was continued westwards by his successors, until it was interrupted by the Black Death.

There is naturally much incidental correspondence with the bishops which can be traced through the abstracts and indices.

SECTION VIII.

THE PRIOR'S POSITION AND DUTIES *SEDE VACANTE.*

This is too large a subject to be dealt with as a whole in this introduction. Nor is it necessary to do so, as it is completely handled by Willis Bund in his Introductions to the *Sede Vacante* Register, printed in Worc. Hist. Soc. Trans., 1894, 5 and 7; but a few details may be added in which the *Liber* supplements the Register.

In the bottom margins of folio vii. (v) and viii. (r) is given the *Stilus prioris in vacatione sedis per archiepiscopum constitutus et ordinatus.* It is as follows: *Prior ecclesie Cathedralis Wygornensis auctoritate curie Cantuarie gerens curam officium et administrationem spiritualium in civitate et dyoscesi Wigornensi sede vacante. Vel stilus iste qui magis valet. Prior ecclesie Cathedralis Wigornensis venerabilis patris domini Roberti Dei gratia Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi, totius Anglie primatis, in civitate et dyoscesi Wigornensi sede vacante officiarius.*

Our *Liber* shews the promptness with which our prior acted. It was not disinterested. One-third of the spiritualities of the see accruing from fees formed the share of the prior and convent during the vacancy.

Godfrey Giffard died *intra noctis tenebras* on 26 Jan. 1302. On Jan. 27 the Prior appoints (64) the subprior and sacrist to receive from the Bishop's executors "his official seal, together with all the registers, instruments, charters, privileges, books, chalices, ornaments, etc., which by law or custom should be in the custody of the Chapter." This and all the following documents are given at length in the *Liber.*

On the 28th, through the official of the archdeacon, he convenes (69) all the abbots, priors, deans, provosts, preceptors and masters of the monasteries, churches, hospitals and colleges in the Archdeaconry, and the Rural Deans who are enumerated, and all who are presented to Vicarages, portions or chantries, to appear before him in the Cathedral, to promise obedience and hear his mandates. On the same day he summons (70) a long list of rectors and officials known to be contumacious, and others, including some ladies, who owe fines.

On the 29th he sends (71) for all the rolls and registers of the consistory courts of Worcester, Gloucester and Bristol and for the keys of the desks.

On the 30th he writes (72) to the Archbishop reminding him of the composition* made in A.D. 1268 by his predecessor Boniface with the

* This is given in Peckham, Rolls Series, ii., 496.

convent and confirmed by the Apostolic See, and asking the archbishop to appoint him as his official. This letter is handed to the archbishop by one of the brethren, John of Bromsgrove, who, in case of refusal, is to hand in a copy of an appeal which will be made to the Roman Court. This is given in 123. It states that the functions of the bishop had been during the vacancy of the see exercised by the prior *a tempore cujus principii memoria non existit.* The claim is for *jurisdictionem imperium et potestatem episcopalem.*

On the 31st the prior writes (77) to the Dean of Christianity, i.e., the Rural Dean of Worcester, to give notice of his parochial visitations of St. Nicholas, St. Helen's and Kempsey. On the same day he orders (78) the Rural Dean of Powick to summon all his clergy to the Cathedral to profess obedience.

A few days later, in 97, we have the form in which he announced his intention of visiting a monastery.

This was a highly contentious matter on which I do not here enter. (*Cf.* Dr. R. L. Poole, Hist. MSS. Com., 14th Report, App. Part viii., pp. 196-7, and Willis Bund as before.)

Presentations to livings in the patronage of the bishop are made, *sede vacante*, by the prior in *612, 661*. The presentee to Kempsey in the latter instance is John of Stratford, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury.

SECTION IX.

RELATIONS TO OTHER RELIGIOUS HOUSES.

This would be a very long section if it attempted a summary of the relations of our priory to the twenty-five or thirty religious houses mentioned in the pages of our *Liber.* We have interesting correspondence with Gloucester, St. Augustine's of Canterbury and Bristol, Ramsey, Westminster, Whiston, Bordesley, Lanthony, Great Malvern and scarcely less with many others, Cirencester, Abergavenny, Cookhill, Deerhurst, Kenilworth, Reading, Tewkesbury, Westbury, and several others. I can only indicate to the historical student that our *Liber* may furnish him with useful materials, and give two or three illustrations.

The relations of our prior and convent to other religious houses arise in many ways. Some arise, as shewn in the preceding section, from the power of visitation vested, *sede vacante*, in the Prior. It is only necessary to say here that the *Liber* furnishes additional details.

Other relations arise from the fact that the convent of Worcester forms the chapter of the Bishop and of the mother church, and is in this capacity called on to deal with proposed appropriations of livings, stipends of vicars, etc. Others again, with houses outside the diocese, as joint members of the Great Provincial Chapter of Benedictines; and others again arise with houses of other orders on the ground of common studies and interests. And there are yet others arising from accidental links from endowments or presentations.

To give an instance of the last and least important first. In 167 the prior reminds the Abbot of Bordesley, a Cistercian house, that he is bound to send them every year, on the anniversary of the death of Sampson of Bromsgrove, 50 pairs of slippers in payment for masses said for his soul; and that if they are not sent there is a fine of 100 shillings. The Prior, John de Wyke, holds the pledge, and threatens the courts, but hopes that the abbot will pay gladly, *ut alii fideles ad pias collationes hujusmodi amplius animarentur.*

A letter (534) from the Abbot and Convent of St. Augustine's, Bristol, to heal old quarrels—in connection, it should be said, with an application to grant them the appropriation of the Church of Wotton—is interesting. "Questions have lately arisen between our convents respecting the prior's right of visiting us, *sede vacante,* and the provision of a cope for your church by our Abbot which have cooled our goodwill on both sides. We desire as members of one body to bow to our head; and by common consent we intend to admit your prior to exercise his right of visitation as far as is lawful, and as the composition between the Archbishop and your church directs.

"As regards the cope we will, as already stated, submit to the Bishop's decision and give you our letters patent accordingly. Admit us therefore to an ampler charity than before; send us your proposals as to peace; let all strife and judicial commotions sleep awhile, and instruct your advocates and proctors accordingly. Be assured that you will find us faithfully assisting you and yours." Bristol, 27 Sep. 1311.

An illustration may be given which also shews the care the convents took at this time of their title deeds. In 429-431 the prior of Lanthony by Gloucester tells our prior that they have collected and copied word for word in one roll all their muniments, and begs the prior to confirm the copy which they send under the seal of the chapter. Naturally, the prior replies that he must examine the copy along with the originals, that being the fixed rule. In spite, therefore, of "the dangers of the roads," the originals are sent, and the copy is itself copied, as 431, in the *Liber,* occupying four pages, and "we, the prior and convent of Worcester, *ex certa scientia confirmamus.*"

The convents are thrown into close relation with one another as members of the great Benedictine Chapter, and as subject to visitation. This is illustrated in 849 and the following letters, where Gloucester, Evesham and Worcester take joint counsel as to an impending visitation from the prior of Shrewsbury, and take legal advice as to some irregularity in the appointment of the visitor. We have seen in Section III. how the convents took joint action as to demands made on them by the king.

There is also a close relation brought about by the loan of learned teachers from one monastery to another. There was a scarcity* of lecturers in Holy Scripture. For example, in 397-400 we have letters from St. Augustine's, Canterbury, to our prior to say that they have no *lector*, and begging for the loan of John of St. German. He writes also to John himself, saying how the brethren desire his presence, *ut per vos possint in sacra pagina informari.* John goes to them, and two and a-half years later, Dec. 1310, the abbot writes in warm praise of John as a teacher. But John is going to Paris to devote himself to scholastic studies, and two of the Canterbury brethren, whom *ob reverentiam ejus cum eo ad scolas misimus*, are going with him to the schools. Five years later (659) the University of Paris writes to our prior a very laudatory letter respecting John of St. German, *qui inter nos velut stella coruscans diu fulsit.* (Worc. Hist. Soc., 1912, A. F. Leach.)

Similarly Ranulph de Cathrop is lent by Worcester to Ramsey. On the occasion of his recall, on account of home needs, some rather heated correspondence takes place (834-839) between the Abbot of Ramsey and our prior.

It is somewhat unexpected that Richard de Bromwych (660), a Worcester teacher of Theology, who in A.D. 1321 is appointed (887) prior of Abergavenny, in A.D. 1325 is urgently pressed to return (1083); owing, it would seem probable, to the death of Ranulph de Cathrop and others, "so that the name and high reputation which our mother has hitherto inherited from the people, although for the moment clouded over, may be restored by your return."

---

* Mr. G. G. Coulton refers here to an article by P. J. Mandonnet, O.P., on La Crise scolaire au début du xiiime siècle, Revue d'Histoire Ecclesiastique, vol. xv. (1914), p. 34.

SECTION X.

THE APPROPRIATION OF CHURCHES TO THE SUPPORT OF MONASTERIES AND THE ENDOWMENT OF VICARAGES.

Our *Liber* will be found to throw much light on the history of these two important and closely connected subjects. From at least the beginning of the 13th century the insecurity and insufficiency of income for monastic vicars had attracted much attention, and it came before the Council of Vienne in 1311. In this section it is only possible to indicate what ground this part of the *Liber* covers, and to give one or two illustrations.

The following is a list of the appropriations dealt with in the first 35 years of the 14th century by the Chapter of Worcester, most of which were carried through sooner or later. The document named is usually the first of a series.

59. Dodderhill to Worcester.
124. Thornbury to Tewkesbury.
403. Wykewane (Child's Wickham) to Bordesley.
501. Elmley Castle to a Chantry Chapel.
528. Wotton to St. Augustine's, Bristol.
553. Seynesbury (Saintbury) to Evesham.
613. Claines to Whiston.
643. Powick to Great Malvern.
644. Langley (Longney) to Great Malvern.
681. Bidford to Kenilworth.
734. Great Compton to Walden.
912. Hatherop to Gloucester.
951. Wolford to Stone.
1063. Cerney Milonis (South C.) to Gloucester.
1067. Snitterfield to St. Sepulcre's, Warwick.
1085. Longdon to Hailes.
1090. Langeberg (Longborough) to Hailes.
1095. Bishampton to Cookhill.
1102. Ambresleye (Ombersley) to Evesham.
1121. St. Andrew's, Pershore, to Pershore.
1162. Duntesbourne Militis to Dore.
1163. Tydrington (Tredington, co. Glo.) to Lanthony.
1240. Tetbury to Eynesham.
1261. Longdon to Westminster.
1273. Kidderminster to Maiden Bradley.

In many of these a careful provision is made for the stipend of the vicar. It will be more valuable to give one example nearly in full than to give abstracts of several documents. Besides these appropriations we have in 871 a stipend insisted on for the Vicar of Astley, which is already appropriated to the Convent of St. Taurin at Evreux, *ne vicaria ad desolationem perpetuam deducatur.*

I will take 1261, on the appropriation of the Church of Longdon to Westminster. In this Wulstan the prior and the convent report in A.D. 1334 that they have inspected a deed of Adam, the late Bishop, as follows. Adam the bishop reports that he has received a bull in regular form from Pope John XXII. on behalf of the Abbot and Convent of Westminster as follows:

"John, bishop, servant of the servants of God, to the venerable brother, bishop of Worcester, salvation and apostolic benediction."

"Although from the office of the apostolate laid upon us the general care for all churches and monasteries devolves on us, yet it becomes us with the more diligence to watch over those which have not means sufficient to bear their own burdens in a suitable way."

"A petition from our most dear son in Christ, Edward, the illustrious king of England, has been laid before us stating that certain houses existing (reading *consistentes*) within the precincts of the monastery of Westminster of the Order of St. Benedict in the diocese of London, in which his predecessors, kings of England, were crowned, and in which they and their queens and others of the royal family were wont to select their place of burial, and in which they are buried, were some time ago (*dudum*) burnt down by a conflagration which started from the royal palace adjoining them. It states also that our beloved sons the abbot and convent of that monastery, with a view to repairing those houses and the other buildings of the church of the monastery which are of great extent, have begun to rebuild at great expense."

"To complete this work, and to maintain (*manutenere*) hospitality both for the poor and infirm and for other persons who gather to the said monastery, and other works of piety which they have been used to carry out there, it is clearly seen that their means do not suffice."

"Wherefore the aforesaid king has humbly requested us that we, with our apostolic authority, should deign to unite and annex to the said monastery, out of our compassion, the parish church of Longdon of thy diocese, in which church the same abbot and convent have the right of patronage, and of which the fruits, rents and income do not exceed 43½ marks sterling of annual value according to the latest valuations for tenths, with all its rights and appurtenances."

"We, therefore, not having personal knowledge of the foregoing matters, having also special confidence in the Lord in the carefulness of thy circumspection in this and other affairs, and wishing to provide with fatherly solicitude for the abbot and convent and monastery in this matter, and being favourably inclined to the supplications of the king, abbot, and convent aforesaid, do by these apostolic writings commit to thy brotherly care and command, that if the facts are so, thou unite and annex the aforesaid parish Church, with its rights and appurtenances stated above, by our apostolic authority to the said monastery; and thus after the annexation and union, on the cession or death of the Rector of that Church, or if in any other way it falls vacant, the aforesaid abbot and convent may by their own authority, in their own persons or by others, freely take and hold possession of that church and commit its income to their use and that of the said monastery, thy consent, or that of thy successors as bishops of Worcester or others being in no way required."

"There must however be reserved or assigned in the first place a part of the revenues of the Church for canonically establishing therein a perpetual vicar to serve the Lord perpetually, and a portion suitable from which the said Vicar may be conveniently supported, and pay Episcopal dues, and bear other burdens that are incumbent on him. This is not to be stopped if any persons have obtained letters respecting provisions to be made for them out of these churches, or out of other ecclesiastical benefices in those parts, whether special or general letters, from the Apostolic See or its legates."

This papal decree is dated Avignon, June 23, 1331.

The Bishop of Worcester then states that on the authority of this letter he summoned the prior and convent and Archdeacon of Worcester, and made public proclamation to all whom it might concern, including the Rector of Longdon, to appear before him if they had any objections to bring forward. He found after full enquiry and examination of documents that the statements were true. In the first place he reserves to the present and succeeding vicars the manse he now occupies; and for his sustenance one acre of land, one of meadow, three bovates and one acre and some pieces of meadow of the fee of Bedford belonging to the aforesaid church, and all sorts of tithe coming from lands in the fee of Bogkebury and Pigasefee in the parish of that church. He has also the tithes of all the mills built or to be built in the parish, and all the lesser tithes, to wit, lambs, wool, milk, flax, cows, bullocks—*vaccarum, vitulorum*—piglings, geese, eggs, bees, curtilages. Also all offerings and mortuary fees, and all revenues which have by custom been paid to the Church of Longdon and its Chapels, the tithe of corn and hay from

the whole parish (besides the tithes of Bogkebury and Pigasefee mentioned above) alone excepted.

He proceeds to enumerate the "burdens," *i.e.*, the payments for which the Vicar will be responsible. He must find a presbyter to celebrate daily in the office of the Blessed Virgin Mary in that church, and also a deacon and subdeacon ministering daily; also two presbyters, one to serve in the Chapel of Chadeflegh (Chaceley), and the other in that of Mottonesolet (Castle Morton), annexed to the Church, to celebrate masses and the other divine offices daily. He is to supply books, vestments, ornaments, and all the usual necessaries for the church and the chapels aforesaid; and see that church and chapels are decently and competently served. He must keep the chancels of the church and chapels in good condition at his own expense, and when necessary, cause them to be rebuilt or repaired. He must find 12 pence for keeping a lamp burning in the chancel of the said church, 14 shillings and 11 pence towards the Archdeacon of Worcester's procuration every year, and 12 pence for *Senagium* or *synodals*.

"Other burdens resting on the Church of Longdon the aforesaid religious will bear." After reserving certain rights "we hereby, with apostolic authority for this matter committed to us, annex and unite the Church of Longdon to the monastery of Westminster." To this the Chapter assented.

Most of the other appropriations recorded in the *Liber* are not ordered by the Pope, but follow the same lines, the enquiry as to the need and its origin; the details of the vicar's income in some cases, and his responsibilities. In details there is variety, and often of much interest.

I will describe one other appropriation, because it shews the variety of influences brought to bear on the Chapter to get their consent, and that their consent was not a matter of course. It seems also to indicate that the consent to be valid must be unanimous.

In 1067 we have a letter from the king, Edward II., dated Beaulieu, April 9, 1325 to the prior, saying that he has requested the Bishop of Worcester to appropriate the Church of Snitterfield to the house of St. Sepulchre's, Warwick, and begging the prior and convent to confirm the deed. In 1068, the Bishop of Exeter, the King's Treasurer, writes to the same effect. In 1069 the king writes from Winchester on May 3 to repeat his request, and sends William de Walleye to give fuller information. On the same day Hugh le Despenser writes in the same sense. On the following day, 1071, the Bishop of Exeter writes, adding that William is clerk to the king himself. In 1072 the king writes on May 28 from Chertsey, in surprise that he has received no

answer. He says that the advowson of Snitterfield is stated by the Treasurer to belong unquestionably to the Bishop of Worcester, and that therefore the convent need not hesitate to give their consent. Hugh le Despenser writes on the same day.

As a result, the Bishop of Worcester on June 5 appoints a commission of three, the Prior and two of his own clerks, to enquire and report.

In 1076, 7, the Prior writes on 13 June to the king and the treasurer that though he and a majority of the chapter consented to the appropriation, "yet my fellow monks, H. F. N. B. and J. de W. absolutely refuse to make the confirmation; and others, W. de L., J. de H., R. de S. and J. de N. will not consent without further deliberation, and the choice and full support of the Bishop of Winchester and Hereford." (*Wynton* is corrected (?) in the margin in a late handwriting into Wygorn.)

We learn that the appropriation was finally approved by the chapter.

It may be noted in 816—a somewhat obscure document—that a fine of £10 is paid to the king on the appropriation of Tibberton.

SECTION XI.

THE FOUNDING OF CHANTRIES, AND OTHER ENDOWMENTS.

On this subject also the *Liber* furnishes much detailed information. The following is a list of such foundations from A.D. 1301—1335 here recorded. At Elmley Castle (501), Worcester (684), Kempsey (704), Over Etyndone (Ettington) (880), Gloucester Cemetery (912), Blockley (998 and 1114), Boroughton (? Broughton Hackett) (1066), Hartlebury (1079), Chelmscote (1089), St. Nicholas, Warwick (1094), Convent of Bordesley (1115—1120), Holy Trinity, Stratford (1193), Ripple (1200), Estyntone (Eastington) (1217).

These are all endowments of chantries except those at Worcester and Bordesley.

The Worcester endowment was for a mass, as follows: In 1316, Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, gives to Bishop Walter Maidstone and his successors a building and messuage lying near to the Bishop's Manor*

* Dr. R. L. Poole tells me that the Bishop's Town House was on the river side of the Strand, just west of the Savoy Palace.

in Westminster, to found a Mass in the Cathedral in memory of the late Lord Edmund, Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, son of Henry III., and Blanche his wife, to be celebrated on the 4th days of June and May respectively, being their anniversaries, in manner as follows: *Placebo* and *Dirige* in the convent according to the custom of the Church, with solemn tolling of the greater bells, four wax candles on the great altar, and on the following day a solemn mass for their souls, and those of all the faithful.

As in the last Section, one foundation of a chantry shall be given in some detail, rather than abstracts of several. The fullest detail of the steps to be taken in founding a chantry will be seen in 1066; the most minute instructions as to the services in 1193; all offer some points of interest, and I select Ripple, 1200, for its detail as to the household and garden belongings of a chaplain.

The following is an abridged translation of the regulation—*ordinatio*—of a chantry founded in Ripple Church by John Saleman, clerk, of Stratford.

"Let all men know that since the Lord Edward, by the grace of God king of England, son of Edward formerly king, gave me by his deed a licence to give and assign two messuages, and 48 acres of plough land, and 12 acres of meadow, and 12 shillings of annual rent with its belongings in Ripple, to two chaplains, celebrating for ever, as is more fully contained in the following deed, therefore I, John Saleman, Clerk, in accordance with that licence, and with the consent of Walter de Bedewynde, Rector of the church of Ripple, in the diocese of Worcester, by these presents give and confirm them, for me and my heirs, to God and the Blessed Virgin, mother of the Lord, and to Philip Owmigge, chaplain, and the Chaplains his successors, who shall celebrate each day a proper mass for my health while I live, and when I shall have been withdrawn from this light, for my soul, and for the souls of John my father, Letitia my mother, Alicia, Avicia, Christina and Johanna, my sisters, and all my ancestors, heirs, relatives (*parentes*), friends and benefactors; also for the health of the venerable father Thomas de Cobham, by the grace of God lord Bishop of Worcester while he lives; and when he shall have been withdrawn from this light for his soul, and the souls of his predecessors, parents and friends; also for the souls of John de Sarn, the Lady Sibilla his wife, and all their ancestors, heirs and relatives, also for the souls of Walter de Beauchamp and Alicia his wife, and Water, William and Egidius his sons and Petronilla his daughter and their heirs, relatives and friends; also for the souls of Simon of Crombe his ancestors, heirs and friends and for

the souls of all the faithful departed; these masses are to be sung in the parish Church of Ripple."

Thus the deed opens. What follows is only given in abstract. To those who celebrate or sing the masses he grants the land, and makes in detail all necessary arrangements. The endowments, mode of presentation, the oath to be taken by the chaplains, and their duties are defined. Every chaplain, for example, is to attend mattins and the other canonical hours in the parish church with the other chaplains and clerks. "He is to say at the mass while I live one collect and post-communion for me, and another similarly for those named above; and similarly after my death."

Rules are then given for conduct and correction; for providing candles; for gifts of money and corn on the Founder's Anniversary and All Souls' Day; and for each chaplain to leave money to his successor.

Then follows a list of the *principalia domus* which he directs that Philip, and each of the succeeding chaplains shall leave to his immediate successor. I give the Latin terms, and what I believe to be the English equivalent.

Principalia domus subscripta, *videlicet*, *melius plaustrum vel carecta* (a good waggon or cart); *caruca cum pertinentiis* (a plough with its belongings); *hercia* (a harrow); *archa* (a chest); *tonellum* (a barrel); *suva* (a vat); *cadum* (a cask); *tina* (? wine bowl or flask); *olla enea* (a bronze pot); *patina* (a plate); *urceolum* (a pitcher); *craticha* (? gridiron); *mensa* (a table); *forma cum trestellis* (a form with trestles); *mappa* (a cloth); *tuellum* (a towel); *lavatorium* (a washing bowl or tub); *pelvis* (a basin); *scala* (a ladder or steps); *ventorium* (a winnowing fan); *saccus* (a sack); *bussellum ad mensurandum bladum* (a bushel); *corbellum* (a basket). It is added that in every instance the best article in the house when the chantry falls vacant is to be left.

The king's licence is given in full, dated Aug. 14, 1320, and confirmed by the Bishop on the Wednesday after St. Bartholomew's Day in the same year, but not confirmed by Chapter till the Saturday after St. Wulstan's Day (Jan. 19), 1336.

The motive for forming a chantry is so piously and simply expressed in 1217, that I give the first sentence of the deed in full.

"Isolde de Audeleye, expecting according to the Apostle that we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, to receive joy or sorrow, according to our merits or demerits, at the trial of the great and last judgment; and wishing by my actions, as far as I can, to anticipate to my advantage the day of the final harvesting, and with mind fixed on things eternal to sow on earth seed from which when our Lord returns I may gather fruit many fold multiplied, with glory in the

time to come; and wishing so to dispose of the use of my temporal goods that they may both profit me in heaven as some slight help in matters spiritual, and on earth may provide welcome support to those nearest to me, for these reasons . . . . I do found hereby a perpetual chantry . . . . for my health while I live, and rest for my soul when I shall have passed away—*migravero*—from this light."

Of other endowments there are scarcely any. In 1251 Roger Daret in a formal deed "gives concedes and by this deed confirms to Brother Wulstan the prior and the convent of Worcester two pence coming from a certain meadow in a certain moor at Knighteton." In 1064 the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester "out of the devotion of sincere affection and the reverence of true humility, which they have long borne and still bear towards their mother church, to assist in maintaining the condition of that Church, and to lighten the burdens which it has to bear grant half a mark annually."

SECTION XII.

THE DISTURBED CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

The allusions to the state of the country are naturally incidental. Some have already been given: and in this section a few more may be given.

In 472, writing in March 1310, the prior excuses himself from going to Westminster to attend a General Chapter on account of the danger to himself and the monastery when the outbreak of strife is imminent—*magnam discordiam Comitum et Baronum que ab omnibus verisimiliter imminere presumitur propter periculum nostri et rerum nostrarum perhorrescentes.* He appointed one of his brethren as his proctor. In 478 is another allusion to the *insecuritas terrarum.* In 553 the Abbot of Evesham (A.D. 1312) speaks of the *seculi procellas que indies aboriuntur.*

The plundering of the property of Bishop Godfrey Giffard, as he lay dying, has been alluded to in Section V. The prior reports to the Chancellor that Godfrey's own people *omnia ejus catalla vendunt, amovent, dissipant et consumunt.* They are laying waste his grounds—*nemora, vivaria et parci destruuntur indies.*

In 321—4 we have letters entitled *Super Straylebaston* (sic). A writ from the king appoints four men as justices to enquire on oath as they judge best, "about malefactors and the disturbers of our peace, and the

perpetrators of homicide, depredation and arson, etc., and to deal with them according to law." These special judges were appointed by Edward I. in 1304. Ducange explains *Traylebaston*:—*hoc est trahe baculum: vox vulgaris apud Anglos.* Annales Wigorniæ enter under 1305, *Hoc anno justiciarii domini regis qui vocantur Trailbaston primo itineraverunt per Angliam et sederunt apud Wygorniam.* We learn from our *Liber* that they came to Worcester on August 16 and sat for six days, summoning an extraordinarily long list of men to attend as witnesses or in some capacity. Only three men were hanged, and 180 *fuerunt in exigendis*; which, Dr. Poole tells me, means that the men were not forthcoming, and that a writ of *exigenda* was issued to the sheriff requiring him to proclaim the culprits to appear under pain of outlawry. After sitting at Leominster and Hereford the judges returned to Worcester on September 7 and sat for four days, and hanged three more men. Here follows a singular memorandum (324) in our *Liber*, headed *Casus*. One of the three men on being taken down from the *furcæ* was found to be alive. They took him into the cathedral and laid him by the tomb of St. Wulstan, where he lived through the night.

In 698 Hugh le Despenser writes to complain that some of the prior's shepherds and others at Martley have beaten, robbed, and grievously injured some of his men. He begs him to redress the wrong, so that he may not have to deal with them in another way—*les pursuire par altre voye.* "This is perilous for you," he writes, "for some of those who were beaten were priests and clerks who sing mass." The prior begs his lordship to understand that the case is not so—*pleist vostre Seignurie entendre et saver qe nient assint.* "We have enquired and your men are to blame. They have killed some of our men and beaten others almost to death. Should we learn that the fault was on our side—*qe coupe yfuist de part de nos gentz*"—we will make amends. The heinousness of laying hands on a priest is shewn in 619.

From 689 we learn that during a siege of the castle of Kenilworth the muniments and charters of the monastery had been seized, and irrecoverably lost.

Some of the disturbances specially affected this county. The documents from 935 to 939 are of value. The king writes from Reading in December 1321 that he is compelled to send forces to the Welsh Marches, and asks the prior to furnish as many "strong fighting men" as he can by the 20th of the month. The prior cannot do so. He sends one of the monks with a letter to explain. "Like others in the kingdom their estate is abased by pestilence, and bowed by mortalities; and especially, beyond all others of the kingdom by frequent comings from the marches—*par les soverneles venues de marcheis*—and long

stays with them throughout the year; and worse than all, by the coming of great men who made perquisitions in Worcester, and have left nothing in the county. They beg and request you for the love of God to have regard to these matters, and for their distress and want of food and drink, and therefore beg to excuse them for being unable to obey your command."

SECTION XIII.

PRESENTATIONS TO BENEFICES.

The Convent must have exercised much influence on the diocese by its patronage; but there is little to shew as to their principles. In 74 we have a specimen of the enquiry made through the Archdeacon when the presentee was not known, *de conditione, conversatione, ordine, natalibus et etate et de aliis que ad ydoneytatem persone sue fuerint attendenda.* There are nearly 50 instances of presentation to livings; not a few of them being exchanges, some of these being with benefices in the dioceses of London, York, Norwich, Bath and Wells, and Oxford. Sometimes it is recorded that the presentation is made at the request of some one, such as the Bishop (480); some legal adviser (526); some influential lady (1208), such as Johanna Talebot, the lady of Richard's Castle.

One instance of such presentation and enquiry is worth recording. In 95 the prior writes, *sede vacante,* to the Archdeacon of Gloucester that he is unable to satisfy himself as to the orders, birth, life and conversation of Adam de Brom, presented by the King, and recommended by the Chancellor, J. de Langton, as a man *bone et honeste conversationis,* to the Church of Wykerisindone (Wick Rissington); and asks the archdeacon to supply him at an early date with information *de articulis omnibus et singulis in hujusmodi presentationum et vacationum negotiis consuetis.* This Adam de Brom may be identified with the well-known Chancery Clerk of that name, who founded Oriel College, Oxford.

Of the presentees some few are described as acolytes, some as *capellani,* the majority as presbyters or clerks. In 633 we have Bishop Maidstone's citation of all rectors, vicars and others who have cure of souls, as bound to take priest's orders within a year of their institution by the Council of Lyons in 1274. On this the Victoria County History of Worcestershire (vol. ii., p. 14 *et seq.*) should be referred to.

The total impression left by the varied incidents and correspondence connected with the parishes with which the convent is connected is that

the chapter was careful of the interests of the parish and honourable, resisting corrupt pressure when possible. A few illustrations may be given.

In A.D. 1313 the official of bishop Reynolds (582, 3) cited the prior and convent to appear before him and shew cause why he should not amalgamate the rectory and vicarage of Hampton Meysey, at the request of the rector. This meant depriving the parish of the services of a vicar in order to enrich a rector. The convent vigorously opposed, and appealed to Canterbury. They argued that the vicarage had been canonically established by the bishop; that the parochial revenues had been from time immemorial divided between rector and vicar, and were sufficient for both; that the vicar had been instituted by the bishop for the cure of souls, and was constantly resident; that each part of the endowment was a separate whole—*quelibet portio per se integra*—and farther, that the disposal of the income rested with the convent.

But the convent were sometimes pressed to make undesirable appointments. Reference to 629—634 shew that Bishop Maidstone pressed them to present Roger Goye to Sedgebarrow. They reply asking for delay, owing to the absence of certain of their brethren, and after a time say they will meet the bishop's wish if they can do so *honore nostro salvo*. But Roger Goye was under a charge of crimes and defects on which he had appealed to Canterbury. "To present till the appeal is settled, and the faults purged would be a discredit to us which we confidently hope you do not wish." But if on your representation—*pretextu vestri*—he is purged, they will consent; and in 634 Roger is presented. It looks like a job reluctantly assented to by the Chapter.

There is a worse job, committed in 1305 under pressure from the Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward II. This occupies 22 letters, from 266 to 349. Ingelard of Warley was a prominent but undesirable favourite of the Prince, and keeper of his wardrobe. He was an unordained clerk, not even in minor orders, perhaps ignorant of Latin, as it is noted that he took an oath in French. Under pressure from the Prince (266) the convent write to Ingelard (274) and grant him a pension of four marks a year, *ob vite meritum et conversationis*. Then in 300 the Prince asks the convent to give Ingelard the next benefiee in their gift. Shortly afterwards he asks for the living of Cropthorne. They reply that Cropthorne is not vacant; but nevertheless, they do present Ingelard to that benefice, under his oath that he will keep the presentation secret till Peter of Piriton resigns Cropthorne. This is the oath he takes in French: *Sy deu me eyde et les seyns ioe ne metterey jammes cest presentement eyns qe mistre Perys la lese, ou per vostre*

conseyl seyt qe ioe la avant mette. But Peter will not resign; and the Prince and Ingelard become impatient. *Ingelardus misit litteram maxime indignationis* (329) and the Prince writes (330) "do not be surprised if we are estranged from you when any affair of yours comes before us." At last Peter resigns (344)—*volens ex certis causis exonerari*—on Sept. 29, and Ingelard was instituted. In Bishop Gainsborough's Register we read that a year later, on Sept. 24, 1306, Ingelard was ordained acolyte and subdeacon on the title of the Rectory of Cropthorne. From the "Papal Letters," we learn that in March 1308 he holds three livings, and the Pope, Clement V., licenses him to hold two more; and in 1312 he is in serious trouble with the Bishop of Lichfield.

Another instance of a forced and unworthy presentation, made under the direct compulsion of the Pope, is contained in the lengthy correspondence from 444 to 449 in the year 1309. It illustrates the completeness of the grasp of the Papal Court on the endowments of the Church of England.

Only the briefest summary can here be given. There is a papal bull, dated Bordeaux, June 6, 1306, given at length, conferring on John Boter an ecclesiastical benefice, with or without cure of souls, in the gift of the monastery of Worcester soon to be vacant, of value not exceeding 60 marks, and subject to no deduction. His deficiency in orders and in age, being in his 17th year or thereabouts, does not bar this. We give him a dispensation, *ex uberioris dono gratie.* (There is a contemporary marginal note that the statement about John Boter's age was untrue. He was barely 12 in 1306, as was clear from his personal appearance.) And on March 24, 1309, the boy is collated and invested by the Prior of Wormeley *per birettum suum,* and begs our Prior or the Archdeacon to induct him.

Willis Bund's introduction to the Sede Vacante Register is indispensable to anyone studying the relations of the monastery to the diocese; but it is supplemented by our *Liber.* To the facts and figures he gives may be added from the Papal Letters (vol. ii., p. 26) that on 21 Aug. 1307 Pope Clement V. granted to Bishop Gainsborough "freedom from the obligation to provide with benefices clerks ordained by his predecessor Godfrey Giffard and other prelates to the number of more than two thousand, notwithstanding the constitutions of Innocent III."

SECTION XIV.

THE CONVENT AS LANDOWNER.

The Convent was a large owner of land in the diocese. But it must be remembered that the manors were in charge of separate obedientiaries, such as the Cellerar, or the Infirmarer, under a special title—*alieno titulo a nostro* (894), and their accounts appear in the separate compotus rolls. But all sorts of business connected with land comes before the chapter for confirmation, and perhaps the student of land tenure in England in the fourteenthcentury may find in the *Liber* some interesting illustrations. In this section it is only possible to indicate some of them.

There are varying conditions on which land is let. Thus in 677 some land is let in Kempsey for 12 shillings a year *et sectam curie de Kemeseye de tribus septimanis in tres septimanas faciendam pro omni servitio et demanda.* In 678 the rent is *pro omnibus servitiis, consuetudinibus, querelis, curie sectis, exactionibus secularibus et demandis.* Homage is rendered in 914 and 1204. Illustrations of the difficulties that arose between the bishop and the monastery in the division of the 300 hides of Oswaldslawe will be found in 521 and following documents; 727 should be consulted.

As landowners they could manumit their serfs. The entries are so irregular that they are probably not complete. There is no hint of any payment being made for manumission. The usual form of manumission, judging from 499, is as follows: *Noverit universitas vestra nos pro nobis et successoribus nostris per . . . manumisisse et ab omni jugo servitutis ad nos vel successores nostros pertinente absolutum et liberum dimisisse . . . cum tota sequela sua et catallis suis in perpetuum. Et idem . . ., prestito corporali sacramento, juravit quod nunquam dampnum vel gravamen Ecclesie Wygorniensi nobis vel nostris inferet vel inferri permittet pro viribus per se vel per alios quoscunque. Quod si fecerit, et super hoc convictus fuerit, presens scriptum omnem virtutem manumissionis amittat, et idem . . . omnimodo careat libertate, et in pristinam eo ipso redeat servitutem.*

Some of the cases, however, have special points of interest. In 375 the *prepositus* or reeve of Cropthorne, an important local official, is manumitted. In 250 Bishop Gainsborough sends greetings to his dear son John de Trobemorton—*in minoribus ordinibus constituto,* and confers freedom upon him, so that he may lawfully be promoted to all holy orders, notwithstanding that "*de nativis predecessorum vel nostris*

traxisti originem." This instance of a serf in minor orders makes it probable that there were local schools to which sons of serfs had admission. Some detail is given in 419. In 423 Richard Spelly is manumitted before receiving the first tonsure.

It was to the convent as landowners that the King assigned on Jan. 27, 1309, the custody of the Manor of Lawarne, belonging to the master and brethren of the Order of the Temple in England. The King's brief is given in 745, and in 746 we have a memorandum of the valuation made by the sheriff of all the property on the manor; 10 oxen at 8*s.* each; 2 cart horses at 7*s.*; 3 quarters of wheat at 4*s.*; 10 of rye (*siligo*) at 3*s.*; 20 of mixed meal (*dragetum*) at 2*s.* 6*d.*; 21 of oats at 1*s.* 8*d.*; 2 of pease at 2*s.* 6*d.*; some hay £1 0*s.* 0*d.*; a bronze pot 1*s.*; 40 acres sown with wheat at 1*s.* 8*d.*; 24 with rye at 1*s.* 4*d.*; one waggon—*debilis*—3*s.* 4*d.*; 2 ploughs with iron shares 2*s.* Total £17 1*s.* 0*d.*

Other memoranda in the *Liber* such as 602 and 607 give information as to prices; 551 and 656 are of interest as to the sale of wool. In 828 it is specified that the acre is to be measured by a pole of 16½ royal feet—*sexdecim pedes et dimidium regales.* In 711, 727, the word *selio* occurs as a land measure. From 711 it appears that 52 *seliones* lying in detached groups of 2, 4, 8, 4, 2, 6, 4, 4, 1, 5, 2, 8, and 2 make 12¼ acres. The *selio* (Fr. Sillon) is the ridge, 220 yards by 5½, making a quarter of an acre. The tenants ploughed up one side and down the other, always turning the earth into their own strip, and thus formed the ridge, turning the plough on the headlands—which account for the odd three quarters of an acre. These ridges, a survival of the open field system, are to be seen everywhere. There was a right of way along the headlands, and when the fields were enclosed the headlands in many instances became lanes. The curious double right-angled turnings in lanes, of which there are several in the neighbourhood of Worcester, are thus accounted for.

In 818 mention is made of the *chevagium* or poll money of one penny per annum, paid by *villani* to their lord after manumission; and in 963 of the *relevium,* a payment on entering a fief; 859 and 867 bear on fishing rights; 916, 932, 1081 on the conditions of lease of mills. The leases of houses in Worcester often furnish local information, and 906, a grant of land to Malvern, supplies many local place-names in Powick, Bransford and Leigh.

SECTION XV.

THE CONVENT AS A SEAT OF LEARNING.

In this section I can only indicate what light, if any, our *Liber* throws on the condition of learning in monasteries early in the fourteenth century; and we must remember that a letter-book, dealing naturally with external business, is not likely to give much information as to studies.

The convent was recruited mainly by novices from outside; but also it would seem from boys whom the convent had trained. Thus in 177 and 178 the prior, in applying to the convent of Great Malvern to admit young John de Madeley *prosequi apud vos vitam monasticam*, says that *quasi ab infantia* he has been brought up in their house. And in 1028 the prior reports to the abbot and convent of Westminster, that Robert de Harley, clerk, had been during his stay at Worcester at an earlier date "well mannered, peaceful, quiet, in fact a boy of good disposition and praiseworthy life; so that thus, from boyhood's years, like a young offshoot from some beautiful flower, springing up to perfection, and afterwards rooted in the garden of delights, the Church militant, he produced, to complete his virtue, the fruits expected of him. There could be no doubt that starting from so virtuous a beginning, his character will justify the hopes we form of him."

There are also indications that the convent promoted the further education of their promising scholars. When in 1083, in consequence of the unexpected death of some of their lecturers, the convent felt it right to recall Richard de Bromwych who had recently left the convent to become prior of Abergavenny, the prior writes: "We have considered that for a long time great outlay and expense was lavished on you; an expenditure through which in process of time you reached the summit of your Master's degree, that burden which for so long a time lay on you to be borne. For these reasons in compensation for all these things you are bound to put aside all other obligations, and return to our mother, who for a time and times has brought you up."

So in 253 Ranulph de Cathrop was picked out as a promising student when a young Worcester monk by Bishop Gainsborough, and sent to Oxford. Our students usually went to Gloucester Hall, now Worcester College, a Benedictine foundation; and Mr. A. F. Leach has shewn in his "Early Education in Worcester" that our convent usually supported two students there.

Usually, perhaps, novices were admitted from outside. There was

an entrance examination, besides the tests which the bishop (1007) required as to general fitness. In 1144 we have a letter from Bishop Orleton pressing the convent to admit a young friend; but in 1145 the prior writes: "After examining him in literature and other things as is our custom we have found him incompetent to bear the usual burdens due to our church in divine service. We cannot therefore, to our regret, comply with your request."

It has been already mentioned in Section IX. that in the monasteries there was a demand for lecturers on Holy Scripture, and that Worcester had been able to lend such men as John de St. German to St. Augustine's, Canterbury, and Ranulph de Cathrop to Ramsey. It would appear from 1008 that these lectures were not compulsory on all, but that they were attended by "Scholar-monks." The Precentor of Glastonbury in supplying information as to a novice applying for admission mentions that "he is commended by our Master Edmond and the Scholar Monks now in the house."

The deputation from Merton College, Oxford, and the letter, 968, which they present to the prior and convent should be mentioned here. They acknowledge great kindnesses they have already received—probably alluding to their consent to the appropriation of a benefice—and apparently, for the meaning is not quite clear, propose to appropriate some scholarship at Merton to promising students from the diocese of Worcester—*ut qui in subrogatione in domo nostra facienda de Wygorniensi diocesi scolares assumpsimus de gratia speciali, nostrarum precum pia exauditione ad sumendum habiles astringamur, sicut in aliis dioscesibus, in quibus beneficia nostro consistunt victui deputata, vinculo sacramenti.*

Reference should, of course, be made to Mr. A. F. Leach's volume referred to above, but I do not think he has said quite the last word on the educational value of the monasteries of this period.

Some further details will be given in Sections XX. and XXIV.

SECTION XVI.

THE CONVENT AND ITS VISITORS AND PERMANENT GUESTS.

A not unimportant element in the social and intellectual life of the prior and the convent is provided by its visitors. They brought into the monastery the news and the atmosphere of the great outside world,

ecclesiastical and lay. These visitors were of two kinds: transient, whether rich or poor, using the monastery as an hotel or as a casual ward or infirmary; and permanent lodgers, having rooms and all necessaries provided for them.

Of the former class, the transient visitors, we naturally read little in our *Liber*, but we get a few glimpses of them, chiefly of those of the richer class. Occasionally, as in 351, the prior invites a friend to come and spend Christmas at the priory—*in instanti puerperio Salvatoris juxta modum . . . ad cordis nostri gaudium.* And in 513, Bishop Gilbert of Annaghdown invites himself. "Having recently arrived from Ireland,* and hearing of your fame, we are coming to you that we may become acquainted with one another. We therefore beg that of your kindness you will admit us and a few horsemen to the courtesy of your hospitality on Thursday."

The interesting document 562 gives among the causes of the strain on the funds of the monastery, that "it is immensely burdened by the concourse of people both for legal business and on account of the bridge." The Commission of Enquiry appointed by the Bishop instances the *comitatus* (county court) from month to month, the coming of the justices, chapters, *dies amoris*, causes committed to Judges delegated by the Apostolic See, which have to be dealt with in a place where many skilled experts meet. This is, the Commission adds, an almost daily pressure; and they point out that for 48 leagues of the Severn from Gloucester to Bridgnorth there is no bridge across the Severn except at Worcester.

We have also referred in Sections III. and XII. to the presence of armed troops, and the long stays—*longes demeures*—of the great men in the city and convent.

It happens that in one of our Cellerar's rolls (C. 482) of A.D. 1313-14, published by the Worc. Hist. Soc. in 1908, we have a long list (pp. 37, 38, 39) of the distinguished visitors to the convent in that year and of the expense of entertaining them and making them presents.

On the permanent visitors, the holders of corrodies, our *Liber* gives much and varied information, supplementary to the paper relating to the corrody of Alicia Conan, published in our Transactions in 1917† by Miss Ethel C. Jones and myself.

* Dr. Poole tells me that the Bishop of Annaghdown was usually driven out of his diocese whenever he attempted to enter it. Consequently he was glad to act as a Suffragan in English dioceses, and to be entertained as a visitor.

† I confess an inexcusable and inexplicable blunder—not a misprint—in Note 3, p. 15 Ada should be Adam. In 1217 a corrody *is* sold to a woman, Felicia; but Ada is not a woman

The word corrody occurs only once, in 243, of an ancient endowed benefaction to enable a poor clerk to obtain priest's orders. That benefaction is connected with the name of King John. The prior presents to the Bishop Richard of Stockton, deacon, on the title *corredii Regis Johannis, cujus collatio ad nostrum officium pertinet,* and requests him to ordain him presbyter.

The promise of support, with or without rooms, is always in the *Liber* called a *Liberatio* (a "livery," an allowance). Of these a reference to the indices (under corrody) will shew that our *Liber* gives the details of more than 40, of which scarcely any two are identical, and they are more numerous in the later years than in the earlier. But even in Archbishop Winchelsey's time there was a danger of corrodies being too easily granted, as the following extract from his injunction for Gloucester, sent me by Miss Rose Graham, shews: *Pensiones et liberationes non concedantur de cætero nisi propter manifestissimam et urgentem monasterii utilitatem. . . . Scripta vero super hiis non signentur nisi in præsentia totius conventus et registrentur omnia talia scripta prinsquam petitoribus liberentur . . . Transcriptum fiat per capellanum abbatis, quod in thesaurario diligentius reservetur.* (*Historia et cartularium monasterii S. Petri, Gloucestrie.* Ed. Hart, Rolls Series, vol. i., p. lxxxv.) But it may be inferred from the Reg. Sede Vac. (ed. Willis Bund, pp. 19 and 34), that all the corrodies granted are not entered in the *Liber.*

The corrodies are granted to different classes of persons and on different terms: to old servants, to persons serving the convent in some way, to old clergy, to clergy sharing in services, to medical officers, to nominees of the king, to monks themselves, or to clerks who assist them, to distinguished clerks and lenders of money and to outsiders, as it would seem, on payment of a premium in cash. Some illustrations shall be given of each of these classes.

Among old servants is John le Bruth, the weirman, in 742, who is to have a weekly allowance of 4 servant's loaves, 6 gallons of beer, and what he had before from the kitchen. Adam Bryd, in 355, has a *panem dispensabilem* (*monachalem* is struck out) and a *ferculum* (dish) *servientis et potagium de coquina,* and a *gustata,* a gyst, of the best beer. A *gustata* is more than once defined as a gallon and a-half (1051, 1288). Anxiety to secure the best beer is shewn. In 1205, in the deed of *liberatio* we read, "The servant who is now in the cellar, and all and each who succeed him, shall swear in the presence of Simon Gros and Margaret his wife that he will draw the aforesaid best beer from the same cask from which the convent is drinking." The *magister cementarius,* the master mason (714) puts into their hands £60,

and in return they allow him daily a monk's loaf, a white loaf of the old weight, two gallons of the best beer (he is a thirsty soul), of meat and fish what a monk receives, and two dishes of pottage, also a room in the tailor's house, a servant, and a stable.

Of persons serving the convent Peter de Grete is an example, 946. Peter is to be rent collector, and to guard all the interests of the convent in the city, and within a mile of it. He swears on the Holy Gospels that he will honestly account for all money received, and pays down £40 sterling. The convent give him a handsome *liberatio*, and if he dies before his mother Isabella they will continue it to her for life.

Of old clergy, Walter Alexander, formerly rector of Tibberton, is an illustration. It will be interesting to give this at length. He and his servant (*puer*) are to have one monk's loaf and one servant's loaf of the same weight; one gallon of best, and one of second quality beer; on flesh days one monk's dish of meat and one monk's pittance. On fish days in Lent and other days when the convent is served with herrings and rice, he is to have four herrings and as much rice as a monk. During Advent if he abstains from meat he is to have as in Lent. After Easter he is to have on fish days one monk's dish and five eggs. When two kinds of fish are served he is to have a monk's dish of the better sort. His servant is at all times of the year to have what the precentor's servant has. He is granted for other necessaries 30 shillings a year. Some of the clergy, as in 483, 700, 1189, buy their corrodies, including rooms, for a small sum. Some give service as well. In 940, for example, William of Cirencester, chaplain, pays 20 marks, and "as long as he lives and is able will celebrate mass daily *bona fide* in such manner and place and for such persons as the prior and convent shall indicate," and in return for it gets the food of a monk and a gallon daily of the best beer. From 86 we may perhaps infer that a corrody holder might bring his own furniture and his heirs remove it.

Of nominees of the King, besides Alicia Conan, there are John le Treour 353, and Nicholas de Renty 640, and John the barber 807, 882; but they have been dealt with elsewhere.

In 381—5 there is a singular correspondence between the convent and the Prince of Wales, who asks for a corrody *for one of the monks*. He writes at the request of his dear friend the Earl of Warwick to ask on behalf of Nicholas de Norton, *moigne de vostre dite meson une chambre et sustenance honourable pur lui et pur deux garcons et deux chevaux pur tote sa vie.* This was in 1307. Nicholas had been sacrist, and was turned out of his office by Archbishop Winchelsey in 1301. He survived to be the senior monk in 1317, but had died by 1324. The reply of the convent is that they had already granted it *al avant dit*

comite par vive voix. He had a separate chamber in the infirmary (1039).

In 1084 and 1233, the convent give corrodies to clerks who attend on the lecturer on scripture, Richard de Bromwych, and the sacrist Simon Crump. These are very special compliments, introduced with a suitable exordium. It is argued in 1233 that "as there are in heaven many mansions doubtless assigned by varying merit, each man receiving according to his labour, so we, *in umbroso transitu vite*, following the footsteps of the Light from above, are right in granting to our beloved brother, who unsparing of perils of his life, despising the manifold tortures of his body, in journeyings often, in perils on the sea, and specially in the Court of Rome, has laboured on our behalf," that he should have a clerk to minister to him, and the document defines his allowance.

This section is already too long; but I will briefly refer to a few more. In 948 and 1089 we have corrodies conferred on eminent legal advisers, John de Broadwas and John de Bitterley; 892 is the corrody of the head porter; 941 provides a *domicilium competens in villa*; 965 in addition to the usual allowances gives to Godfrey and Margaret at the beginning of Lent 200 *red herrings* (*alecia rubra*), two salted salmon and two congers. In 980 a chaplain buys a corrody for 40 marks, and besides the corn given him he is to have every year one ox worth a mark, and four pigs worth a mark, and on the first Sunday in Lent 6*s*. 8*d*. to buy fish. In 1097, besides food, William Outrich is to have a cloak—*indumentum*—every second year; and his wife Lucy, if she survives, is to have, as a dowry, a substantial corrody.

This is sufficient to shew that any student on the subject of corrodies will find *material* in our *Liber*.

SECTION XVII.

EXCOMMUNICATIONS.

The threat of excommunication is so universally appended to any order from an ecclesiastical official that it can scarcely fail to occur to the reader that the threat must have lost its terrors. But such an inference would be very incorrect. Excommunications did follow, and not only imposed dreaded ecclesiastical penalties and isolation, but involved a right to send to prison. Probably the *Liber* will add nothing to the historian's knowledge of the principle, but it may furnish interesting illustrations of its actual working.

We saw in Section IV. that the Rector of Tredington was excommunicated and imprisoned (594-596) for non-payment of the Archbishop's levy of fourpence in the mark to his "Central Church Fund." The Prior after a time persuades him to pay, and obtains his release from the Sheriff.

The series 506-509 and 520 furnish an illustration of the ruthless use of the power of excommunication exercised by collectors of first-fruits of vacant benefices claimed by the Pope. They report that they have given orders that Rectors or other defaulters who have not paid, are to be publicly excommunicated in their own churches and elsewhere on every Sunday and feast-day till they shall have paid.

The convent also used the same power to enforce their rents. In 1211 it appears that the Camerarius of the Priory could not get some of his rents in Lockesley paid; and the following letter, here abridged, is sent by the official of Worcester to the Dean of Kington and Vicar of Lockesley. "By the letters of Bishop Walter Cantilupe it is plain that certain persons in the town of Lockesley are bound to pay the camerarius 18 shillings a year, and those who hold back the rent are liable to the greater excommunication. We therefore hereby straitly command you in the church publicly and solemnly to denounce and excommunicate all those who detain the said rents, having summoned them to attend in person. This is to be done until you shall have received other instructions from us." 18 Feb. 1337.

An illustration may also be given of the excommunication of other offenders in 624. Thomas of Powick had escaped from the king's prison, being in fear of death, and had taken refuge in the precincts of the monastery, *infra cepta monasterii*. The newly appointed Bishop, Walter of Maidstone, writes to the Sacrist and the Dean of Christianity in Worcester. "The horror of dire savagery which at our first entry into our diocese has just sounded in our ears stirred our heart to its depths, has given us the cup of bitterness to drink, and challenges us to punish it as it deserves by canonical retribution." After describing the fact above mentioned, he continues, "Some sons of iniquity rushed in and dragged him out and committed him to the secular prison."

The bishop cannot pass over such an act, which is to the great prejudice of the Church and to the disgrace of the clergy. He therefore commands them to denounce these malefactors as excommunicate in the Cathedral, in the other churches of the city and neighbourhood, on Sundays and feast days, in all their processions, preachings and services, before the clergy and the people, striking the bells, lighting and extinguishing the candles, carrying the cross, and with all possible solemnity warning them once, twice, thrice to bring back the said

Thomas within six days to the Church safe and sound, to reconcile themselves to the Church, and to abstain from such actions henceforward. If this fails, or if there is undue delay, diligent enquiry is to be made as to their names. None may provide them with food or drink, with fire or water. If this also fails, and the obstinacy of these malignants demands it, he may have to proceed to lay the city and neighbourhood under an interdict. Bredon, 22 April 1314.

Some particulars of penance from 793 will be of interest. Some men have cut down and carried away timber belonging to the prior's woods. All of them, on the first Sunday in Lent, 1318, had to walk barefooted and wearing shirts only, in procession, before High Mass, each carrying candles of a pound weight, to make an offering at the great altar in the Cathedral. If there are any priests among them they need not go barefoot, or be stripped to their shirts, *ob reverentiam ordinis*.

Such excommunications as these must have tended to give not only to ecclesiastical commands but to all law a mysterious, sacred, divine authority such as that which the Jewish law possessed. It was a great factor in the moral and political education of our race. Law came to be regarded not as commands enforced by the strong and submitted to by the weak, still less as restraints enforced to curb the strong by a combination of the weak, but as having an independent and divine moral origin. It stood for the rule of right as against the rule of force.

SECTION XVIII.

BUILDING AND REPAIRS OF FABRIC.

The documentary evidence that exists as to the building of the cathedral and the monastery, and as to the responsibility for repairs to the fabric is so slight and fragmentary that every reference to the subject is of value. Our *Liber* supplies us with two or three such references.

In 57, when Godfrey Giffard was dying, in Jan. 1302, the prior writes a private letter *domino speciali et experto*, probably an official of the Chancellor or Archbishop. "You know," he writes, "that, as a result of the privilege granted him of receiving first-fruits, the bishop has received a large, indeed a very large amount of money, of which, although the first-fruits were granted him for that work, he has contributed or expended nothing at all on the fabric of the Church, nor as much as 60 marks on the bishop's residences." We learn from the original documents in Thomas's Appendix, p. 66, that, on the ground

that the church urgently needed repair, the bishop had asked for and obtained a grant of the first-fruits in the diocese for three years. The bishop's reply to this charge was that this grant was not intended for cathedral repairs alone, but for *alias causas necessarias et utiles*, and he admits that he spent the money *in opera et casus magis necessarios*. It is therefore evident that the Bishop had spent nothing on the Cathedral.

We learn from the Sede Vacante Register (fol. 8, p. 14) that one of the reasons for electing John de St. German as bishop, was that he might take up the repairs to the building. They were plainly urgent. The *Annales Wygorniæ* for the year 1302 report that "the fall of a large part of our dormitory, which had long been threatening ruin, demonstrates our neglect." The tower probably, and the parts of the cathedral adjacent to it, also urgently called for repair.

Document 96, belonging probably to 1302, is therefore of very special interest. The Prior, *sede vacante*, could act as the bishop, and he promptly revives the *confraria*, a method adopted by former bishops* for raising funds in the diocese for the fabric. He writes to all officials of archdeacons, to deans, abbots, priors, rectors, vicars, chaplains, ecclesiastical persons, and generally to all the faithful throughout the diocese. He announces that with the advice of the chapter he has resolved to revive the ancient *confraria* of the mother Church of Worcester, thus treading in the steps of Cantilupe and Godfrey Giffard and other bishops. He urges them to receive with all courtesy and friendliness the messengers—*nuntios*—of the *confraria*, when they come to request the alms of the faithful in aid of "the work of building of our church." He requests all parish clergy "to induce their people by sermons, and by their own examples, to join the *confraria*; and both to give and bequeath, for the good of their souls, some share of their wealth for this purpose." "Whoever after confession and true penitence thus charitably gives of his means is released from one third of any penance, and receives from the Pope, the Archbishop and Bishops 1028 days of indulgence, and a share in all the prayers and benefits of the Cathedral and of the whole diocese for ever. If the parish is under an interdict, on the day that the messengers are received the interdict is withdrawn. All whose names are inscribed in the *confraria* will be buried in consecrated ground *nisi aliud rationabile obsistat*." He orders them to receive the messengers with all reverence, and to admit no other collectors for any purpose, at least from Advent till after Easter, and to give these messengers the preference.

* Ann. Mon. Rolls Series, vol. iv., p. 417, under date 1224. *Confraternitas hujus ecclesie incepit in Januario die S. Wlstani duratura per Septennium.* The *novum opus frontis*—the Ladye Chapel—was begun in 1224 under Bishop Blois.

In 494 occurs a reference to building operations conducted by the convent. In 1310 the Earl of Gloucester had pressed them to send a waggon and four horses to carry provisions to Scotland for the army in order to assist the king. The prior replies that he is most desirous to help, but the waggon and men are much needed both for the approaching harvest and *for the repair of our church—pur nostre eglise repariler.*

We have seen in 714 that there was a *magister cementarius* employed by the convent; and in 961 a *magister operum nostrorum* is spoken of. But 1266 and 1283 are very illuminating. I have referred to them in Section VII. In 1266 bishop Simon de Montacute claims the appointment of the sacrist; and says that he appointed brother Simon Crumpe "as an expert, and specially fit for this charge, to the care and administration and full exercise of this office." And in 1283 he writes that "as long as your brother aforesaid is giving good and laudable service in hastening the building—*ad expeditionem fabrice*—of the Church of Worcester our Spouse, we will not remove him from the office of sacrist."

As to the building of parish churches, I have met with only two direct references. In 1229 the prior and convent confirm a deed of Adam Orleton, Bishop of Worcester, of A.D. 1332. "W. de Hedington, the rector of Winterbourne, being now old and paralysed and blind, and unable to retain the cure of souls, has resigned the living, and we have instituted John of Hereford to it. But considering William's great service to the Church, both in the costly erection of noble buildings—*in edificiorum nobilium constructione sumptuosa*—and in their defence, and to save him from poverty, with the present Rector's assent we have ordered that W. shall receive for life from John and his successors £20 a year."

The other is in 1173, in which it is stated that the S. aisle of the Parish Church of Stratford on Avon—*ala ex parte australi*—was rebuilt—*de novo constructa*—by John de Stratford, Bishop of Winchester.

There are frequent references to the repairs which the monks had to make in their own buildings as justifying the appropriation to their uses of the revenues of parish churches. Thus in 689, we read of the *navem conventualis ecclesie tanta vetustate confectam* of Kenilworth; and in 1063 the abbot and convent of St. Peter's, Gloucester, speak of their ancient church *opere sumptuoso constructa* needing great repairs, *ad cujus fabrice restaurationem sumptus quam plures apposuerunt.* See also 1078 referring to St. Sepulcre's, Warwick; and 1163 of Llanthony, that the *prioratus in ecclesia domibus et officiis voraci incendio gravem passus est sepius lesionem*; 531, 566, 1240 and 1266 furnish other illustrations.

SECTION XIX.

THE CONVENT AND ITS LEGAL BUSINESS.

This subject cannot be properly dealt with in the limits of this introduction. It would run to excessive length. The correspondence about Dodderhill alone extends to more than 30 documents, and deserves a paper to itself. The suit with Robert Tankard, (see 585), who had usurped rights and emoluments belonging to the Archdeacon of Worcester—an Italian absentee—is of interest. The convent protected the rights of the Archdeacons appealing from Court to Court—*non sine sumptibus execrandis*—and won their suit at last. A few words, however, may be said.

A great and wealthy Benedictine monastery in the fourteenth century, in a busy centre like Worcester, was no place of retirement from the world. It was brought into constant contact and conflict with the outside world. Its position in the ecclesiastical system, and its extensive ownership of land, involved the prior and chapter in much business of Canon and Civil law.

The usual custom seems to have been to appoint selected counsel as their proctors to watch permanently their interests in the various courts to which cases concerning the monastery may be brought. They are paid by retaining fees which pass under the name of pensions; and agreements are made in all cases. We find that there are proctors for the monastery in the Court of Rome, and similarly in the King's Courts, the Court of Arches, in Parliament, in Consistory Courts, and at Canterbury and York. There is also legal business at the Assize Courts. All of them can be referred to by the indices.

Only a few references to special points can be given here. From 54 we learn that the convent had two proctors in the Court of Rome, J. de Ros and B. de Douvebrugg (Doveridge), and from 927 that in 1322 the full yearly stipend for such a proctor was 20 shillings. From 271, 272, 273 we read that W. de Hamilton, the King's Chancellor, W. de Thorntoft, clerk to the King, and Peter de Colyngbourne, are engaged to act for the convent in the King's Courts. In 289 W. de Thorntoft, treasurer to the King (298) and rector of Dodderhill, is awarded a pension of 40 marks a year; and Peter de Colyngbourne, from 75, was rector of Kempsey. There is frequent reference to the Court of Arches. In 666 and 667 Andrew de Bruges (Bridgnorth) and Geoffrey of Eyton are each retained in that court at 100 shillings a year, and 710 shews how they were instructed to advise

one of their number in case of a dispute with the bishop. From 299 we learn that J. de Haustude received a pension of no less than £40 for his advocacy in Parliament of the convent's claims. William de Hyntes (of Ludlow) in 625 is engaged for consistory courts.

Others again are engaged to plead in all courts, such as J. de Bloyon (931) and W. de Teffonte (812), and John de Stratford, "our brother and fellow monk" (813), as proctor was authorised to plead in all courts. In 453 John de Buterley (Bitterley near Ludlow) receives a pension of 50 marks a year, to be continued for one year after his death to his legatees. In 628 we have the form of oath taken by a clerk engaged *in foro ecclesiastico, in provinciis Cantuariensi et Eboracensi.*

Then there are reports of assize courts held at Worcester, as can be seen from the index. They are often abridged, the legal verbiage being implied by an "etc."

The total cost to the convent of the pensions and of other legal expenses was manifestly heavy, and this is corroborated by reference to the cellarer's rolls.

SECTION XX.

THE INNER LIFE OF THE CONVENT.

A letter book of the prior naturally gives no direct statements about the inner life of the convent. It does not tell us in so many words how they spent their days, what occupied their minds, or what they had for dinner. But incidentally it does help us, as we have seen, to realize some of the external influences which affected the life of the monks. In this section will be found references to incidents mainly within the monastery which coloured their lives in some degree.

Admission to the monastery was plainly a coveted honour. Its numbers were limited. In 43 we have a letter from Queen Margaret in 1301, begging for the admission of Roger de Styvington, a relative of her physician. She naively says that her "motive is to increase her own merit by thus opening a way for those who desire a religious life." They admit him, and he is one of the monks who in 1317 voted in the election of the new prior. From 1134-7 we see that a postulant, though recommended by King Ed. III., was rejected as unsuitable in character; and from 1144-5 that a clerk, though strongly recommended by the bishop, Adam Orleton, was refused as not qualified by his learning. The standard of admission was higher than that which won the rank of clerk. From 1008 it appears that a novice must be free born.

From 756, 1007, and elsewhere, we see that the bishop appointed some one to examine the postulants and report whether they were qualified for admission. In 776 one is delayed *propter etatem minorem.*

The next step was the admission and the clothing. This was performed by the bishop (359) in the Ladye Chapel; and if the bishop was not present, by his official; in which case (536) the prior was solely responsible for the fitness of the novice to be professed and clothed.

There is one curious reference to the training of novices in 109, an anonymous letter in rather obscure dog Latin. I give it entire as a curiosity (conjecturally translating the most doggish phrases). *Amico suo in temptacione probato suus possessus* (his devoted friend) *salutem bonam ut sibi* (as he would wish for himself). *Superiorem compellere nequeo ad committendum persone capaci petita* (to entrust it to a person capable of doing what is asked for), *quod displicet mihi valde. Sed unum scio, quod in brevi novicii sentient relevamen optatum* (that the novices will soon feel the relief they are hoping for). *Penitet me primariam vestram petitionem admitti non posse* (I am sorry that I cannot carry out your first request). *Scribentis impotentia duntaxat causante* (my badness as a writer alone prevents me); *cum secundum jura nullus poterit factum promittere alienum* (since nobody can legally promise a deed of another). *De negotiis possibilibus socium vestrum probate* (test your companion in things he can do); *de impossibilibus sustinete si libet* (put up with him, if you can, in things he cannot do). *Valete in regimine angelorum vestrorum quos novicios appellatis* (I wish you joy in the management of those angels of yours whom you call novices).

The office of master of the novices was apparently not an easy one.

The book throws no light on the studies or life of the older monks; but there were certainly opportunities for learning. A promising young monk like Ranulf de Cathrop attracted attention. There were lectures on Scripture; but from 1008 the mention of some monks at Glastonbury as "scholar monks" makes it doubtful whether all attended the lectures. Our library catalogue proves that there were several men of learning in the convent at that time, as we shall see in Section XXIV.

It is not perhaps generally known that the convents had sometimes a resident medical officer. In A.D. 1320 our convent granted to Henry de Hampton a corrody and rooms *pro consilio, auxilio, et obsequio suo nobis et fratribus nostris in arte et officio medicine in posterum impendendo* (891). And in 1154—5 John de Bosco's appointment and pledge of service are recorded. In the appointment occurs the passage "We have granted him also a place for a bed in that chamber

where other doctors—*medici*—along with the infirm have hitherto been accustomed to sleep." This was in A.D. 1329.

There are frequent indications of disciplinary troubles, and penances are imposed. Some of the letters, such as 42, from the President of the General Chapter, pleading the remission of penance, are touching. "Our heart," he writes, "is pierced with sorrows. Have pity. Reflect how noble a thing it is for one placed in authority to listen to the pleadings of pity; grant pardon to those that beg for it. Such remission is also expedient. Others who fall, if driven to despair of pardon, may fear to return to the bosom of the Church." And he reminds the prior of the example of the Lord Jesus, *qui lapsis et errantibus facilem se prebuit indulgendo.*

And besides real wrong doings, there were rumours which had to be investigated by the Archbishop. He writes in 112 to the prior directing him to see that three of the brethren, who have been *leviter diffamati*, are not in future annoyed. And there are factions, such as those spoken of in Section VII.; sometimes complaints made to the bishop against the prior, as in 154, when Stephen de Wytton departed without leave from the monastery to consult the bishop, and returned after four weeks *cum maxima difficultate.*

It must have been a difficult life for the monks; thrown as they were so closely and incessantly together, night and day, year after year, with no holidays; and especially at times when ardour for devotion or study was at a low standard, and discipline relaxed. The Benedictine motto for community life was necessary as well as wise—*Hilaritas, simplicitas, benignitas.* Our *Liber* gives us two examples of monks whose lack of these social qualities made them insufferable in the convent.

One was John of Dumbelton, already spoken of, whose claim to return to his old monastery, after resigning his priorate of Little Malvern, was upheld by the Archbishop. The General Chapter hit on the happy compromise of the convent's paying his expenses at Oxford for a time.

The other is Simon of Defford. The story is so illuminating as to life in a monastery that I shall quote it at some length. In 743, the last of Prior John de Wyke's letters that has been preserved, he writes to the abbot of Gloucester that "in our community there is a certain brother, who by his violent language has greatly disturbed the peace and the quiet intercourse of the brethren. We have borne with it for many days, carrying this burden on our weary shoulders, in the hope of some amendment to come, of which, however, so far we see no signs." He explains that it became intolerable; that the chapter felt that action was

necessary, and that a statute passed in the last General Chapter occurred to them as giving the right solution. "We hoped that our brother could be more effectively and in accordance with the rule forced to penitence and amendment in your monastery than anywhere else; and therefore we sent our brother and fellow monk, Master John de Harley to you with our letters of credence; and he in our name, by word of mouth, pleaded with your fatherly heart that you would admit the said brother for a time to perform his penance in your monastery, for his amendment, and our quiet, and also for the honour of our religion. To this request, as we have learned from the tenor of your letters, you courteously assented."

"For this consent, in addition to the reward which you will receive in the sight of God for your conspicuous obedience to the presidents and prelates of our order and to their statutes, we also convey to you our thanks to be expressed in actions manifold."

"After being entertained among you as a guest for one night in any way you think best, let him on the morrow have a bed assigned him in some part of your common dormitory; and after that let him be admitted in the Chapter House in the presence of all. Let him then be conducted outside, and while the Chapter meeting goes on, let him have a fixed place assigned him in your cloister apart from the novices; and meantime let the brethren be informed of the reason of his coming. Thenceforward let him take his place in the convent as a novice not professed, and be placed last but one among the younger priests—*sacerdotes*—on the left side of the choir. When he has been instructed by some guardian as to your mode of chanting and reading in the church, let him take his share, as you may arrange, in the work of divine service along with the rest of the juniors.

"Then, if it should seem to you expedient, let him be placed in order for everything except masses; we do not intend to impose on him the celebration of the solemnity of the mass until he has established peace with his neighbours and himself. In other matters let him do whatever he is asked to do. But of outside service let him omit nothing. He should dine only in the refectory; and on no account let him drink wine. Let him sleep in the dormitory; not go outside the cloister; and nowhere except in the presence of some guardian of the order—*alicujus custodis ordinis*—hold conversation with any one whether a stranger or known to you. In the same way let secret confabulations with your brethren be forbidden. It will not be expedient for them, in a place of silence and quiet to hear his noisy lips and braggart tongue—*labia tumultuosa et linguam magniloquam auscultare.*

"Be good enough, if you please, when you see the right moment, to

let us know concerning any signs of penitence and improvement in him as soon as they seem to be established, and how he behaves in obeying the rules laid down; and we will certainly arrange for his further treatment, by lightening, or if need be increasing, his burden, as his conduct may require.

"If during the time he is with you he should be ill, treat him in all respects as you would treat one of similar position in your own community.

"It only remains to say that as to his expenses for the whole time of his sojourn with you, we will fully satisfy you, whenever you wish, according to the terms of the statute referred to."

The letter referred to from the Abbot of Gloucester is given in 744, and is dated St. Bartholomew's Day (Aug. 24). Two months later, on Oct. 29, Simon voted at Worcester at the election of the new prior, for which he would be required to attend. He then returned to Gloucester.

The experiment was entirely successful. On 23 Dec. in the same year the new prior, Wulstan de Bransford, writes to the abbot that as they hear that Simon has now for a long time behaved in a praiseworthy way, they wish to recall him, and with warmest thanks they send 40 shillings in payment. The abbot replies most courteously, with praise for Simon, *quem honeste religionis et decentis conversationis testamur in diurnis et nocturnis officiis.* He begs to be allowed to return the money. They are much bound to Simon; and recall the saying that "*sæpe in societate plus valet opera quam pecunia.*" If Simon should come back to them his return *nobis ingens gaudium erit allaturus.*

Disputes and factions would be more likely to find mention than any indications of piety and tenderness; but even these are not wanting. There were messages (149) from associated houses notifying the death of a brother; human sorrows and sympathies move these cloistered lives. The prior in 174 writes to his dear friend H., the abbot of Cirencester, to say that one of his brethren, Adam of Cirencester, "ceases not to drink the cup of sorrow for the death of his father." And in 175 Adam himself writes "to his chief master, worthy to be loved more than all on earth," the abbot H., to thank him for the honourable funeral given to his father. The letter ends "On bended knees I pray to the Most High that by my prayers and kindly deeds I may please so good a father, whom, as far as such a poor creature can do so, I commend to the Lord."

And 774 opens a vision of a good man's heart. John de Harley* writes to his youngest brother Roger at Netley, who has gone very wrong, and repented and come back. "Greeting: and may you know how sweet a thing it is to accept the Lord's yoke. You well know with how strong a chain Satan has bound you for many days. But now the prince of darkness in you has been conquered, that you may be for the future a child of light; and the Good Shepherd has placed on His shoulder the wandering sheep, and brought it back to the fold. For this with glad heart I give thanks to the Father of mercies, who recalls and reconciles the wanderers. I earnestly pray you steadfastly to remain in the calling to which you have been called by the Lord's will."

There are partings also with monks who go elsewhere. Such as John of Madeley, in 178, one "brought up in our house as it were from infancy;" or as John Bacoum of Stanford, who is going *ad partes remotas,* and begs the prior for a letter testimonial, *ne de ipsius vita, moribus, et conversatione dubitetur.*

The life in a large monastery, situated at a great centre of traffic and legal business as Worcester was, can never have been monotonous. And besides all the varied interest suggested by the earlier sections of this introduction, there was the selection of ten or more "obedientiaries," monks placed in charge of special departments: cellarer, almoner, infirmarer, hostiler, precentor, sacrist, magister scolarum, coquinarius, camerarius, pitancer, tumbary, refectorer. These appointments generally gave to the holder the management of a manor or two, and perhaps a private room, and a horse, and a servant, and release (1233) from some duties. Proctors had to be chosen to represent the convent on some special duty, in Parliament, in the General Chapter, in Provincial Council, or on an errand to some other monastery. Life in such a convent was very full; and it was varied by the coming of important visitors, installations, visitations, assizes, not to mention the troubles from the unsettled condition of the country.

But enough has been said to shew that the student of monastic life in the fourteenth century will find some materials in our *Liber.*

---

* From Ann. Mon., iv., 480, we learn that Henry, lord of Harley, had six sons, who all became monks at Worcester, Beaulieu, Hayles, Bordesley, Rufford and Netley. John was the eldest brother, and Roger the youngest.

SECTION XXI.

PLACE NAMES; TOPOGRAPHY OF CITY; MONASTIC BUILDINGS.

A letter-book naturally does not furnish any methodical information on these subjects. I shall only indicate the sort of notices which any-one studying these subjects may reasonably look for in our *Liber*.

Place names, names of farms, &c., constantly occur in the description of the boundaries of any piece of land let on lease, or transferred to other owners; 704, the founding of a chantry at Kempsey, is a good example. So is 906, in which places in Powick, Bransford and Leigh are named, some of which may survive still, such as Gildhall, Langefurlong, Poukecroft, Coulecroft, Arlehey, Neweland, Norhull, Dedefield, Worchyn, Wyglinghale, Redehull, Wyginhale, Brademere.

The *mons rubeus citerior*, now the Fort Royal, is mentioned in 504.

When leases are granted of property in Worcester there are often some references to streets, or steps, or some local feature. In 1098 for example, and 1116, a tenement in the cemetery belonging to the sacristy of the church is described as in length extending from the gate of the bishop to a certain *celarium juxta scalarium;* and there are some other notices of the bishop's palace.

Of the monastic buildings the library is mentioned in 358; the great gate in 700; The Lychgate, the well in the cemetery, the steps of the cathedral porch, the great altar, bishop's throne, vestry, prior's hall, bishop's hall, the lower church or nave, and the chapter house in 504. The stalls in choir in 572; the Ladye Chapel in 359; the shrine of St. Oswald (58, 106); St. Wulstan 106; tomb of John de Constantiis and sedilia in 58; bishop's prison 94; schola 315. The "Painted Chamber," *in prioratu nostro* and *juxta aulam hospitum* is mentioned in 872, 411, 1039. The infirmary and tailor's shop in 714, 891, the *camera janitoris* in 892; the *misericordia** and the buttery hatch—*fenestra*—at which supper was given out in 411. In 948 we have the *Camera dicta S. Oswaldi cum omnibus ediis et commodis adjacentibus;* and a house *infra cepta precentorie*. A stable near the cellar called the Drench house is mentioned in 1039; in this document it is mentioned

* The rule that the monks should not eat flesh-meat proved too hard. A practice arose of allowing them to go so many times a week to the Infirmary to eat it. Afterwards the *Misericordia* was built, where not more than half the monks at a time were allowed to dine. So the monks had meat, and the Refectory remained meatless.—G. G. C.

that John of Bitterly might dine in the refectory, the misericordia, or the hostelry.

It is evident from these notes that the information as to buildings from this source is but scanty.

SECTION XXII.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON SOME MEASURES OFTEN REFERRED TO.

LAND.

Land was measured by a pole or *pertica* (perch), measuring 16½ royal feet, 828. A *selio* (711 and 727) is a strip of land (sillon), 220 yards by 5½, containing therefore a quarter of an acre. (See Section XIV.) A *virgate* is about 30 acres. A *hide* about 120 acres. A *carucate* as much as one team of oxen or horses could plough; it may be 180 acres.

A household appears generally to have had a virgate or half a virgate. A day's ploughing was about 3 acres; the cost of it ½*d*. a day. The Villanus provided labour *ad operationem* for the lord of the manor, or paid rent to provide it. Free men held land on rent; but often had to pay heriots, and attend on manor and other courts. The lord of the manor held the demesne lands; and his profit came in the form of produce, labour being given free, or in that of rent.

GRAIN.

1 quarter = 2 cronni or cronnokes (961).

1 cronnus = 4 bushels or modii or estrikes, 1048, 1109, 1195.

1 mitta = 10 bushels or a cart load.

A hop of oats is mentioned 1155; it seems to be a peck.

LIQUID.

Gustata* = a gallon and a half (1051, 1268).

Lagena is a gallon; potellum (892), a smaller measure, 2 quarts.

* Mr. G. G. Coulton gives me much information. The mediæval gallon was smaller than ours by something less than a third. The *gustata*, more usually *justata*, (from *justa*, the pitcher in which each monk's beer ration was served) appears in *Dugdale-Caley*, ii., 30b., to have been 1½ gallons. In the *Westminster Consuetudinary* (Bradshaw Soc. 1904), p. 129, the Prior's "justa" is 2 gallons. See also *Bath Chartularies* (Som. Rec. Soc.), ii., 28.

The ordinary allowance of beer was 1 gallon or 1½ gallons a day. It seems to have cost ¼*d.* a gallon sometimes, since Hale mentions (Reg. Prior, p. xi) a toll of 1*d.* *or* 4 gallons of beer.

SECTION XXIII.

THE FINANCE OF THE CONVENT.

The finance of the convent would not primarily be sought in a prior's letter-book, but in the compotus rolls of its bursar and cellerar. The object of this Section is not to give a systematic view of their finance, but to indicate what side-lights are thrown on the subject by this volume, and to shew the temper and conduct of the actors, and not only the figures of a balance-sheet.

When John de Wyke became prior in 1301, it was desired (Sede Vacante Register. Ed. Willis Bund, p. 14) "that the state of the monks as regards their food and refection in the refectory should be improved." There are signs of anxiety and mismanagement, and that debt was increasing. The new prior has soon to borrow more money (29 and 169). He explains to a friend how the need arises. The visit of the King and Queen has been expensive—the low price of corn now-a-days—*vilitas venditionis bladi moderni.* They are in a rather tight place—*aliquantulum in arto positi.* Would he lend them £40?

In 308 he implores a pensioner not to press for arrears. But on the other hand he savagely demands the payment to him of money that is due. In 107 he writes to the Vicar of Nuneaton and demands immediate payment. "If not," he writes, "do not be surprised if we proceed against you with the utmost rigour of the law." Letter 457 is characteristic. It is to the Prior and Convent of Sandwell (Staffs.). "The prior of Worcester sends greeting to the prior and convent of Sandwell and hopes that they will be guided by saner counsel. Since we are instructed by the teaching of our rule—*documine regulari*—'Do to others what you would wish done to yourself,'* your coolness compels us to wonder that after repeated opportunities you have hitherto paid nothing of what belongs to us . . . . Know that we shall proceed against you with strong measures."

* N. T. Scholars will be interested to note that St. Benedict's rule quotes this in the *negative* form—*quod sibi quis fieri non vult non faciat*—as King Alfred does in the Preamble of his laws, quoting from the decree of the Council of Jerusalem as preserved in the Western text (*Codex Bezæ*). Bede also used this interesting and wide-spread text, probably derived from St. Luke's first draft of the Acts of the Apostles.

The curious correspondence (303—5) between Hugh de Carnaria (the Charnel House), Dean of Westbury, and our prior shews how mutually distrustful they were.

The same need of money induced them to pledge their wool in advance in return for ready money. In 656 they promise "20 sacks of good wool of their own store, white, clean, dry and well washed—*sine cocha et garda, nigra et grisa lana, sine scabie, putredine, unctura et omni vili vellere*—that is free from bits of wood and teasel, black and grey wool, without scab, dirt, grease and coarse fleece" for 160 marks sterling which they have already received. They throw in one more sack for luck—*in avantagium dicti Johannis*—and give him seven sacks that year, 1316, and seven in each of the two following years, packed in bags provided by John—*in sarpillariis dicti Johannis impaccata*—at Cropthorne.

This custom of pledging the future in return for ready money was further developed by Wulstan de Bransford. It was a species of gambling in life insurance. This was spoken of in Section XVI. And it was not always a corrody in food. In 1160 the prior and convent, in return for a certain sum not stated, guarantee a sum of £10 per annum secured on the rents of Wolverley. The priory was an insurance office for annuities.

There may be some such explanation of the obscure financial arrangement of 884. "Robert of Valoygnes and Master Nicholas of Sandwyco came before the Barons of the Exchequer on July 25, 1320, and acknowledged that they were bound to the prior and convent of the Blessed Mary of Worcester in 100 marks to be paid annually to the prior and his successors for the whole life of Thomas de Berton, formerly rector of the Church of Cleeve in the diocese of Worcester, in 4 quarterly instalments."

Perhaps some slight outline of the financial position of the priory at this period should be given here.

There is a Compotus roll (C. 54) of the Bursar and Cellerar of 1297-8 existing in our library, and the Bursar was John de Wyke himself. This and others have been transcribed by Canon Price, but not yet published. It shews that in that year his receipts were £271 18*s.* 1¾*d.* and his expenditure £371 15*s.* 2*d.* He therefore exceeded his income by £99 17*s.* 0¼*d.* The balance of debt with which he started was £378 6*s.* 8*d.* Hence the year closed with a debt of £478 3*s.* 8¼*d.* The kitchener also had an accumulated debt of £46 1*s.* 6*d.*

The next surviving Bursar's roll is C. 482 of 1313-14, which is printed in our Transactions for 1908. The debt at the end of that year is £640 7*s.* 6¼*d.*

The next is C. 55 of 1320—21, transcribed by Canon Price, and the debt is reduced to £530 8*s*. 7½*d*.

Under such circumstances as these, in 1312 the convent request the bishop to appropriate to them the revenues of the Church of Dodderhill, which had been granted them by Godfrey Giffard a few days before his death, but had not come into their possession.

Documents 558, 561, 562 give much information as to the causes of debt, and I shall transcribe freely.

The Convent state to the bishop in A.D. 1312 that "their monastery founded long ago by the munificence of kings and the devotion of the faithful became wealthy enough to meet the claims of hospitality and to support 40 monks. But in process of time they had been robbed—*hostilitatis et direptionis molestia*—of 6 manors and 5 noble churches, by no fault of their own; and cunning enemies, under specious excuses, were seizing their lands and goods. Moreover, there was inevitably a concourse of people at Worcester. They came partly to prosecute lawsuits, partly on account of the bridge across the Severn, offering for a space of 48 leagues the unavoidable route—*iter indeclinabile.*

"The number of monks is still undiminished. They are suffering however from such a burden of debt that it will be necessary to abandon the good deed of hospitality, or the performance of divine worship, to the scandal and eternal disgrace of the whole Church by diminishing the number of monks, unless a remedy is speedily applied."

They therefore request that he would appropriate to their use the revenues of St. Augustine's, Dodderhill.

In reply the Bishop directs the Rural Dean of Worcester and Droitwich to summon a sufficient number of clergy and laity to appear before his official in the cathedral on the fourth juridical day after Epiphany 1313.

The official reports that all were cited who were, or believed themselves to be, affected by the proposal, and he gives the names of many rectors, vicars, and laymen who appeared. They testified on oath that *in temporalibus* beyond what they now possessed, were 13 manors, Pendock, Mitton, Lench, Clanculum in Ireland, which itself contains 20 carucates of land, Loxley, Burton, Laugherne, Pebworth, Grimley, Bredicot, Spetchley and Estbury *ambo*. *In spiritualibus* they had lost the six churches of Wolverhampton and Westbury, both recently made collegiate, Dodderhill, Wolverley, Overbury and Blythe. The value of these manors and churches formed more than a third part of the income of the monastery, as proved by charters which they inspected, and by oral and traditional evidence. They have lost them by no fault of their own.

By all sorts of eunning—*versutia multiplici*—and far-fetehed excuses, their enemies are not afraid to take their property. That by this cunning and false charges and all sorts of unjust extortion the property and goods of the monastery are being wasted and diminished is so notorious, public, and manifest throughout the dioeese that it eannot be concealed.

They find that what is said of the concourse of people is true, and add of their own knowledge that the eonvent is almost daily harassed and occupied by those who come for the monthly county courts, the judges, the chapters, the *dies amoris*, and by lawyers.

It is also true that the convent is heavily pressed with debt. The prior and convent are diligent and sagacious in business; but they are in distress. Their moveables are being sold, their wool pledged for three years in advance, the pitances are reduced. "Unless some gift to relieve them is found, they must diminish the number of monks *ad scandalum universalis ecclesie et dedecus sempiternum*, and diminish hospitality and reduce divine worship."

Such is a summary of the financial condition of the priory in 1312.

SECTION XXIV.

INDIVIDUAL MONKS OF THIS PERIOD.

On folio lxxxiii., with which Part ii. opens, is a eomplete list, apparently arranged in order of seniority of admission or nearly so, of the monks of the Priory of Worcester in the autumn of 1317, at the date of the eleetion of Wulstan de Bransford as prior. The list is as follows :—

1. Johannes de Saneto Germano (absent).
2. Nicholas de Nortone (in infirmary).
3. Henrieus de Antioeh (Do.).
4. Johannes de Pirie (Do.).
5. Radulphus de Scalleby (Do.).
6. Nicholas de Beyein (Do.).
7. Gilbertus de Madeley, subprior.
8. Robertus de Dicledisdone.
9. Willelmus de London.
10. Johannes de Bruera.
11. Willelmus de Inteberg.

12. Johannes de Dumbeltone.
13. Willelmus de Wych.
14. Thomas de Chiltenham.
15. Johannes de Harleye.
16. Johannes de Astone.
17. Willelmus de Bisseleye.
18. Johannes de Sancto Briavello.
19. Ricardus de Bromwych, S.T.P. and precentor.
20. Ranulphus de Cathrop, S.T.P.
21. Robertus de Cliftone, cellerar.
22. Willelmus de Staneweye.
23. Robertus de Asserugge.
24. Marmaducus de Pirie.
25. Nicholas de Bradefeld.
26. Adam de Cyrencestria.
27. Adam de Theukesbury.
28. Johannes de Stratford, almoner.
29. Simon le Botiler, coquinarius.
30. Bogo le Bracy.
31. Henricus Fouke, subsacrist.
32. Rogerus de Stivintone, pitancer.
33. Simon de Defford.
34. Walterus de Kereswell.
35. Willelmus Mose.
36. Ricardus de Saltford.
37. Rogerus de Herwyntone.
38. Johannes de Pedwardine.
39. Alexander de Brerhulle.
40. Wulstanus de Branesforde.
41. Simon Crumpe.
42. Ricardus de Winchcumbe.
43. Nicolaus Morice.
44. Robertus de Morton.
45. Johannes de Neuwytone.
46. Rogerus de Henleye.
47. Willelmus de Wykewane.

There is no such list preserved of the monks at the election of John de Wyke in 1301, or at the election of the three successive priors who followed Wulstan de Bransford. The names, however, of some of the brethren who had died or left the convent before 1317 may be gathered from the *Liber*. The *Liber* contains no mention of obits, and is

certainly incomplete in its record of admissions. This is known from the obedientiaries' rolls. For example, Robert de Weston was cellerar in 1322-3 and in 1326-7; John de Preston is kitchener in 1328-9; John de Leye was a monk in 1339-40: but there is no record in this volume of their admission.

John of Bromsgrove must have been a man of mark. He was a monk (98); represented the convent in legal business (73, 81); entrusted with visitatorial powers (104); sent on a delicate mission to the Archbishop (123). He is proctor for the convent to the General Chapter (256); in Parliament as proctor for the absentee Archdeacon (284), and on this occasion he and Gilbert of Madeley take up £90 with them to be used at their discretion in advancing their suit for Dodderhill (286). Again, in 1306, he is sent (362) with Nicholas of Cotheridge to Gloucester to protest against their election of John Thoky as their new abbot.

Stephen of Wytton is another man of mark. He was sub-prior in A.D. 1301 (64), and proctor in all legal business for the convent (81) along with John of Bromsgrove. He left the convent without permission (154) to lay a *gravamen* or complaint before the bishop against the prior. In 1305 the bishop appointed him sacrist (319); but in 318 we see that the appointment was protested against.

J. Norton (282) was the prior's proctor in Parliament; W. de Grymeley is referred to in a letter from the President of the General Chapter in 16; and it appears from the Sede Vacante Register that he was precentor.

None of these names were on the list of monks in 1317. Returning to that list, the first name is that of the one absentee, John of St. German, of whom something has been said in previous sections.

Then follow the names of five monks who were in the infirmary and took no part in the election.

Nicholas of Norton was sacrist A.D. 1280 to 1288, and again in 1290. He was deposed by the archbishop in 1301; was reappointed by the bishop in the autumn, and again removed by the archbishop. By a somewhat strange arrangement, at the request of the Prince of Wales and the Earl of Warwick in 1307 he was appointed (381—385) to a corrody; with a special chamber, two servants and two horses. He vacated the chamber (714), in favour of William de Schokerwych in 1316, and retired to the infirmary. (*Cf.* Miss Rose Graham's paper referred to in Section V.)

Henry de Antioch had been almoner in 1292 and infirmarer in 1301.

John de Pirrie was one of the seven whom the convent named to

the bishop in 1287 and 1289 as those from whom the prior was to be selected.

The remainder of the list appears to be arranged in order of seniority. This may be inferred from the fact that the *Liber* records the admission of No. 32 in 1301; and that 31 and 32 were professed in 1303; 34 to 39 were admitted in 1305 (Gainsborough's Register); 40 and 41 in 1310; 42 and 43 in 1311. Our *Liber* tells us that 44 and 45 were admitted in 1313, and 46 and 47 (probably, see 741) in 1317. Two others, as we learn from the bishop's register, were admitted in 1303, whose names do not appear again.

These facts and figures enable us to draw some inferences as to the ages of the monks in residence. The youngest third (31—47) had been admitted in the last 17 years, and their ages may have ranged from 20 to 40.

No. 15 was admitted with John de Wyke in 1276: so that the middle third had been in the convent from 17 to 40 years, and their ages may have ranged from 40 to 60.

The invalids in the infirmary were not necessarily the oldest; but the senior monks, from 7 to 15, must have been well over 60.

Of the rest of the oldest third, Gilbert de Madeley (No. 7) had filled many offices of trust. Cellerar and sacrist in 1301—3 (6, 7, 37, 64, 131); sent to the king (68, 105) to ask leave to elect a bishop in 1302; subprior in 1305 and 1315 (285, 662); Proctor in Parliament (282, 286, 342); subprior (749) in 1317.

John de Dumbelton (No. 12) has been often mentioned in this Introduction. He was sacrist from 1288 to 1290. He was made prior of Little Malvern by Godfrey Giffard in November 1299 (*Ann. Wig.*, p. 542) and resigned in January 1301 (p. 548). We have seen that he went to Oxford, probably not for the first time, in 1302, but retained his rights as a monk of Worcester. He was at Worcester in 1312 (576) and again in October 1317 (750), in 1324 (1023). The MS. Q. 46, Reports of Sermons at Oxford, in our library belonged to J. de D. (folio 1 and the parchment label on the back); but from the entries at the top of folios 141 and 294 it seems to have belonged to William de Soham, and may have been written by him. As J. de D. was sacrist of Worcester from 1288 to 1290 he was not at Oxford at that time, and did not himself take down the Reportationes of Q. 46, sermons dated *circa* 1288 to 1291.*

John de Harley (No. 15) was mentioned in Section XX. as a member of a noble family. He was admitted on November 1, 1276,

* This observation is due to Miss Rose Graham, who examined the volume.

along with John de Wyke. He was a man of affairs, wise and tender-hearted, filling high offiees, and sent on delicate missions.

John de Aston (No. 16) has left no trace that I have met with, except that he absolved two brothers, clerks, for fighting when in a temper (Sede Vac. Reg.); but he was a scholar and a student of Aristotle, and some of his work survives in our library in Q. 13.

John de St. Briavel (No. 18) was a man of mark. The name Briavel, which occurs only once in England, in Gloucestershire, is that of the Norman Saint Ebrulphus (Evroult). John was proctor to the General Chapter in 1301 (17), and again in 1304 (256). The indiees will shew on what important missions he was employed. He constantly interviews the Counsel for the Convent; he is sacrist; he is sent to the king in the matter of Alicia Conan; to the Archbishop, Bishops, Earl of Hereford and others. In A.D. 1318 he is collector of first-fruits for the Pope, of a procuration of 4*d.* in the mark for Gaucelinus, Cardinal-priest, and of the tenth for the Pope from the Archdeaconry of Worcester, this last amounting to £736 5*s.* 10¼*d.* He must have been an able man.

Richard de Bromwyeh was both a scholar and man of affairs. Several of his books are in the Cathedral Library, one (F. 139) probably in his own hand. He was the teacher or *lector in Scolis*, till he was appointed (836) visitor of some of the Benedictine Houses by the General Chapter in 1318. In 1320 he was appointed prior of Abergavenny (827). From this post he was recalled (1083) in 1325 to resume the work of teaching in his old convent. That he did so return is shewn by the *quondam priori bergavencie* in the fly-leaf of F. 62, and it appears from the Sede Vacante Register that he lived till 1350.

Ranulphus de Cathrop (20) is another interesting and distinguished person. We are told in 253 how he was picked out in 1304 as a promising student, and sent to Oxford; and in 552 how he took his degree. He also was an S.T.P.; and in 834—9 we read of his lecturing at Ramsey, and being recalled to Worcester. We learn from the library catalogue (F. 124) that part of that volume was his gift.

Robert de Clifton (21) ean similarly be traeed as representing the convent in the General Chapter, and Parliament, and Provineial Council, and is entrusted with delicate missions.

The next on the list who is distinguished is No. 28, John de Stratford. The interest attaching to John de Stratford lies not a little in the faet that he may very easily be identified—wrongly, as for some time I identified him—with a distinguished namesake who rose in later years to be Dean of Westbury, Archdeaeon of Lincoln, Bishop of

Winchester, Chancellor, and Archbishop of Canterbury. I have to thank Professor Tout and Mr. C. L. Kingsford for saving me from this tempting blunder.

There were really two of this name, both closely connected with the monastery and versed in legal matters: one a monk, the other a legal adviser, the future Archbishop.

Folio xxvii. (r) is headed by the name of John de Stratford, chaplain. He was therefore, as mentioned above, probably chaplain to the prior, and in charge of the *Liber Albus* and the correspondence of the priory. From his position on the list he probably entered about the year 1300. That he was a man of special ability is shewn by the fact that he, the monk, was appointed, as we read in the Sede Vacante Register in June 1308, along with J. de S. Briavel, to collect the fifteenth granted by the clergy from the diocese of Worcester. He was also sent on a difficult mission to S. Augustine's, Bristol, as representing the prior, and excommunicated the abbot.

Now appears in our *Liber* (422) a *Magister* J. de S. *Juris civilis professor*, in close relation with our convent and known to the prior, apparently an Oxford man. In 469 they appoint our monk to attend the provincial council. In 519 a corrody, and in 633 the Rectory of Kempsey, are conferred on the *magister*. From Dr. Wilkins' careful work on Westbury we learn that a J. de S., LL.D., was made Dean of Westbury; and this was in the patronage of the convent of Worcester. The preceding dean was Hugh de Carnaria, probably of our *Capella Carnaria*. In 750 it seems that both are present at the election of the new prior; the *monk* is now almoner, and is one of the seven nominated by the convent; the *magister* is the legal adviser, the *organum vocis* of the subprior.

In 813 J. de S. is appointed as the proctor for the convent in all legal matters and all businesses; and he is expressly styled "their brother and fellow monk." The appointment is identical with that of one of their chief legal advisers, Thomas de Teffonte. Both are intimate with the prior; both employed, see 770, 771, 843, 847, 877, on important legal business; and then one of them, the *magister*, becomes in 896 the Archdeacon of Lincoln; and the other is traceable as a monk in 1321.

Simon le Botiler was elected prior in 1339, but died the same year. Of the youngest third, none have fully won their spurs. But Henry Fouke, admitted in Feb. 1303 (Ann. Wig., p. 554), was subsacrist in 1317, and subprior in 1324; and along with a still younger monk, N. Mauricius, was chosen (1202) in 1336 to represent the convent in the Roman Court.

k

Wulstan de Bransford (No. 40) became prior in 1317, and ultimately bishop in 1339. No. 41, Simon Crump, sacrist and prior in 1339. No. 43 is the Nicholas Mauricii mentioned above.

The names, but nothing more than the names, of some of the monks admitted in Wulstan de Bransford's priorate, are known. I mention them here. The list is not complete.

John of Westbury and John of Ancredam admitted 17 Nov. 1318 (809).

Philip of Pirybroke and John of Winchcombe, 9 March 1319 (870).

William de Peyto, Richard Colys of Worcester, William de Tony, 9 Dec. 1321 (925).

William de Clyve, 23 Oct. 1322 (954).

Thomas de Acton, 6 Apr. 1323 (972).

Thomas of Solihull, Robert of Glastonbury, and John of Evesham, examined for admission 11 Nov. 1323 (1007).

Nicholas de Stanlake, 25 April 1329 (1147).

There are a few monks named whose admissions are not entered. In 923 Henry de Cokeseye is named as subprior in 1321.

The mentions of some as witnesses serve to shew that they were living, and the offices they held. Roger de Styvintone is cellerar (923), and John de Stratford is living in 1321. And in 1324 Henry Fouke is subprior, G. de Madeley is chamberlain, and W. de London, J. de Dumbelton, N. de Stanweye, N. de Ascherugge and N. de Bradefeld are living. In 1054 Robert of Clifton is precentor in 1325.

This record, imperfect as it necessarily is, of the character and the learning of the middle group, from 12 to 32, of the monks of 1317, among whom John de St. German should be included, is ample proof that in the early years of the fourteenth century this convent was not unworthy of the language in which, in 1325, as told in Section XV., the prior Wulstan de Bransford appealed to Richard de Bromwych to return: and with his words (484) I will conclude:—

"To our brother in our holy religion, Richard de Bromwych, the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Worcester, that he may have the spirit favourably to consider and act on this that is sent to him.

"Our mother Church, as of old, in her material structure she shines out more conspicuous with special beauty than all her subject

daughters, so she has been wont to excel all others in the persons under her rule, soundly indoctrinated in the law of God and man. But death for which we weep, whose summons in the course of nature no mortal can disobey, has withdrawn from us some of them, and left us few to look forward to. No wonder that for this reason we are struck with heartfelt grief, ever since the word of God which flowed among us like a stream has, as it were by the bite of death, been withdrawn from us and its stream dried up. . . .

"May Christ's mother, who will for ever live with Him above the skies, bring you back to us."

LIBER ALBUS.

PART I.

ABSTRACTS OF DOCUMENTS 1—749 BELONGING TO THE PRIORATE OF JOHN DE WYKE, ON FOLIOS I—LXXXII.

A.D. 1301—1317.

Registrum incipiens prima creatione Fratris Johannis de Wyke prioris Wygorn.

Anno domini M°CCC° primo.

Folio I. 1301.

1. The Prior and convent appeal to the Archbishop that John of Dumbelton should not return to the priory, and offer to pay for him elsewhere.

2. The Archbishop orders the prior and convent to receive John of Dumbelton under threat of ecclesiastical censure. Gloucester, 1301

3. The Prior to the Bishop of Salisbury urging the return of Peter of Piriton (who had been presented to Cropthorne in 1299), for urgent business.

4. The Bishop of Salisbury replies that it must be left to Peter's own decision. Before Sep. 8, 1301

5. The Archbishop of Canterbury to the Prior requesting him to give credence to the bearer of the letter about certain matters concerning the administration of Nicholas of Norton, late sacrist. Prestbury, 5 Ap. 1301

6. The Bishop, Godfrey Giffard, to the Prior ordering that Gilbert of Madley should not hold the two offices of cellarer and sacrist, and reappointing Nicholas of Norton as sacrist. Kempsey, 6 Sept. 1301

7. The Archbishop to the prior ordering that Nicholas of Norton should cease within 8 days to be sacrist. Aldington, 21 Sept. 1301

Et est istud Registrum incipiens Nonis Aprilis anno supradicto.

Folio I. d. 1301.

8. The Prior to the Archbishop reporting that Nicholas of Norton has resigned the office of sacrist of his own free will.

9. The Prior to the Archbishop, a full statement of the case of John of Dumbelton, begging him to refer the decision to the General Chapter.

10. The Prior to brother W. de Hymuttone, begging him to prevent John of Dumbelton's return to the Convent.

11. The Prior—*suo si placet clerico confidenti*—to say that he had written to the Archbishop about J. de D. and requesting assistance.

12. The Prior to the Abbot of Westminster, confidentially: urging him as President of the General Chapter not to insist on the convent's receiving J. of D.

13. The Abbots of Westminster and Malmesbury, as Presidents of the General Chapter, request the Convent to provide J. of D. with five marks before November 1st to maintain himself at the University at Oxford, or in some other Benedictine monastery, until the meeting of the General Chapter at St. Albans in 1302.

14. W. Abbot of Westminster to the prior, informing him that the General Chapter—*quatenus in nobis est*—relaxes the penance imposed by the Archbishop on W. of Stanway. Westminster, 8 Oct. 1301

Folio II. 1301.

15. W. Abbot of Malmesbury confirms the letter of his co-president. Malmesbury, 3 Oct. 1301

16. The Abbot of Westminster compliments the prior, and asks him to pay the expenses of W. of Grimley, one of his monks who was appointed with the precentor of Tewkesbury at the general Chapter at Oxford in 1300, as visitor in the dioceses of Salisbury, Bath and Wells, and Exeter. 25 July 1301

17. The Prior to the Abbot of Westminster, pleading business as a reason for non-attendance at the General Chapter, and naming John of St. Briavel as his proctor. 14 Sept. 1301

18. The Abbot of Tewkesbury to the prior, respecting lawsuit with J. of Bishampton on water rights.

19. H. of Devizes to the prior, complaining that Roger de Wulcote has kept him out of possession of the Church of Weston-sub-Edge.

20. J. of Stanway to the prior, asking for the appointment of Clerk to the apparitor of the Archdeaconry of Worcester.

21. W[illiam of Gloucester] clerk in the service of the Archbishop to the prior, referring to the execution of the Archbishop's decree in the dispute with the Prior and brethren of St. Wulstan's (see 268), and the recent proceedings about the Sacrist. 12 Oct. 1301

Folio II. d.

22. The Abbot of Waltham and the Dean of London to the prior, demanding balance of £4 17*s*. 5*d*. due of tenth granted for six years to the King, before Nov. 1st. 12 Oct. 1301

23. R. (Richard de Gravesend) Bishop of London, and Bartholomew de Ferentino, quote the Bull of Feb. 26, and demand payment to the pope of the tenth imposed on the clergy for three years. London, 27 July 1301

Folio III. 1301.

24. The Abbot of Gloucester to the prior, demands as collector of the tenth for three years due to the Pope for the Roman Church, and of the tenth for six years due to the King for the Holy Land, that he shall pay the tenths as they fall due, and pay without delay arrears of twenty shillings from the archdeaconry of Worcester for the fourth year.
Gloucester, 3 Nov. 1301

25. Copy of the commission from the Bishop of London and B. de Ferentino to the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester, to collect the three years' tenth in aid of the Roman Church in the diocese of Worcester.
2 Oct. 1301

26. The Abbot of Westminster to the prior, urging gracious treatment of John of Dumbelton.

27. Peter of Leicester to the prior, requesting that the annexation of the Church of Budbrook to his prebend, at St. Mary's, Warwick, may be confirmed.*

Folio III. d.

28. A letter to some one not named, asking for his goodwill.

29. The Prior to Master Robert of Gloucester, chancellor of Hereford, asking extension of period for repayment of loan of £10 0*s*. 0*d*.

30. Bishop Godfrey Giffard to the prior, inviting him to dinner at Alvechurch on Nov. 12th, 1301.

31. H. de Raggeleye, Rector of Himbleton,† to the Prior, containing complaints that in absence he has been deprived of his living, notice of appeal to Rome and Canterbury, and statement about property in Ireland rightly belonging to the monastery.

32. Appointment of Thomas de Teffonte as proctor for the convent in the Court of Canterbury.

33. The Prior to the Bishop, Godfrey Giffard, inviting him to his installation, and to dine on Sept. 24th.

Folio IV. 1301.

34. The Prior to the reverend father J. elect of Llandaff, inviting him to his installation on Sept. 24th.

35. The Archbishop to the prior, explaining that no monk may hold office while undergoing penance, nor afterwards without his consent.

36. The Archbishop to the prior, wishing the convent to provide John of Dumbelton with an honourable allowance as was enjoined at the general chapter of the Benedictines.

37. The Archbishop to the prior, directing them to treat with all honour Gilbert of Madley, whom he had appointed sacrist in place of Nicholas of Norton. Chartham, 7 Nov. 1301

* See Reg. Sede Vac., p. 21.

† He was presented by the prior and convent on August 5th, 1291. *Cf.* Annales de Wigornia, p. 506.

38. The Prior to the Archbishop, urging remission of penance imposed on W. of Stanway.

39. Receipt from R. Tankard for the money allocated to him for his expenses in collecting the tenth demanded for the Holy Land."

Note at the foot of page:—Videatis in Littera Archiepiscopi paulo superius quod Frater Gilbertus de Maddeleya in officio sacristarie per Archiepiscopum impositus fuit non sine evidenti et rationabili causa amovendi.

Folio IV. d.

40. The prior to the King, explaining the reasons why the convent could not grant the burdensome corrody he asked for A. de B.

41. A letter, in part alternative to the former, explaining that although they could not give him the desired livery and board, they were prepared to give him board.

42. The Abbot of Westminster to the prior, urging remission of penance imposed on W. of Stanway.

43. Queen Margaret to the Prior asking him to admit Roger de Styvyntone.

44. Franciscus, Cardinal-deacon of St. Lucy in Silice, to the prior, requesting that payments due to him on account of his Archdeaconry of Worcester be made to his agents. Anagni, 1 Aug. 1301

45. Appointment of Master J. de Ros as proctor in the Roman Curia. 13 Dec. 1301

Folio V. 1301.

46. J. of Drokensford, the King's Treasurer of the Wardrobe, requests for J. de Boulis the living of Dodderhill, when W. de Doveria resigns it. York, 10 Oct.

47. Antony Beck, Bishop of Durham, to the prior, urging the advantage it will be to them to present J. de Boulis to Dodderhill. Crayke, 9 Nov. 1301

48. The Prior to the King, acknowledging his letter (46), stating that the convent has made pledges which cannot be broken.

49. The Prior to the Bishop of Durham, a similar letter with somewhat fuller detail.

50. The Prior to P. de Tadington, sending the above letters (48, 49 and 51), begging him to forward them on account of the dangers of the roads.

51. The Prior to J. of Drokensford, willing as far as may be to meet his wishes.

At the foot of the page is written:—

Littere in ista parte sunt pro ecclesia de Duderhulle cum responsionibus.

Folio V. d.

52. The Rector of Dodderhill assures the Prior that if the convent will present J. de Boulis, the King's clerk, as the King desires, nothing will be wanting on his part. Dodderhill, 14 Dec. 1301

53. The Archbishop of Canterbury writes at length to the abbots of Winchcombe and Pershore and the Rector of Cleeve prohibiting the abuse of hospitality claimed from some of the convents by the officials of the Bishop. He mentions specially the convents of Worcester, Gloucester, Lanthony by Gloucester, Bristol, and Cirencester.
Chartham, 7 Nov. 1301

Folio VI. 1301—2.

54. The Prior explains to Francis, Archdeacon of Worcester, why he cannot send his payments in full: some clergy refuse to pay: he is burdened by tenths, a fifteenth, a fifth, a four pence in the mark to Canterbury, and they have lost money by taking pollards.
Worcester, 21 Dec. 1301

55. The Prior explains to the President of the General Chapter that though they have sought for John of Dumbelton at Gloucester, Reading and Malvern to give him half of the five marks due to him, they could not find him or learn where he was, but they were prepared to pay it to the Abbot or any one whom he should appoint.

56. The prior asks the Chancellor, John de Langton, for immediate protection for the property of the dying Bishop, which is being plundered.
[Dec. 1301 or Jan. 1302]

57. The Prior writes simultaneously more fully to an expert friend; mentioning that the Bishop's large receipts from first-fruits, granted him for the repair of the fabric, have been otherwise spent: urging that his property be at once sequestrated. [Dec. 1301 or Jan. 1302]

Folio VI. d.

58. The Archbishop orders the Prior and Sacrist to remove the tomb which Bishop Godfrey Giffard has prepared for himself on the South side of the great altar. Mayfield, 10 Jan. 1302

59. Bishop Godfrey Giffard, desiring to promote divine worship and to relieve the monastery from debt, appropriates to the convent the Church of Dodderhill. Alvechurch, 20 Jan. 1302

[The Bishop died on 26 Jan.] A note is added. *Nota quod non tenet.*

Folio VII. 1302.

60. The Abbot of Malmesbury begs that the prior will supply John of Dumbelton with money to enable him to study at Oxford until the next General Chapter.

61. The Archbishop instructs the Abbot of Winchcombe, and the official of the Archdeacon, to protect the property of the dying bishop, and to order restitution of what has been seized. 10 Jan. 1302

62. The text of a composition arranged between Thomas de Cantilupe, Rector of St. Augustine's, Dodderhill, and certain others named, as to tithes of salt and saltworks within the parish.

[This is St. Thomas, Bishop of Hereford, who resigned the living of Dodderhill when he was consecrated in 1275. He was canonized in 1320.]

Folio VII. d.

Heading of Folio VII. d. **Registrum incipiens in vacatione sedis per mortem Godefridi Episcopi.** At the bottom is given in full, "**Stilus prioris in vacatione sedis per Archiepiscopum constitutus et ordinatus.**" See Introduction, S. VIII.

63. Francis, Archdeacon of Worcester, demands the payment of 117 marks and £40 still owing to him, under threat of excommunication in Rome and England. Rome, 10 Dec. 1301

64. The Prior and Chapter appoint the sub-prior and the sacrist as proctors to receive from the bishop's executors his seal, registers, muniments, chalices, &c. Worcester, 27 Jan. 1302

65. The prior instructs the official of the Archdeacon to convene all the abbots, priors, &c., and rural deans and others to appear before him in the Cathedral and profess obedience. Worcester, 28th Jan. 1302

66. *Forma regratiandi.* A common form for thanks.

Folio VIII. 1302.

67. Walter de Bertone and John of Stanway report to the prior the death of Bishop Godfrey Giffard, and fix the funeral for the Sunday after the Feast of the Purification. Alvechurch, 27 Jan. 1302

68. The Prior and Chapter send Gilbert of Madley and John of Harley to the King with a letter to notify the Bishop's death, and to request licence to elect his successor.

69. The Prior directs the official of the Archdeacon to summon all the religious who claim any income from Churches to bring their documentary authorities for such claims to him in the Cathedral on the Wednesday before March 12. Also all rectors, vicars and chantry priests who are non-resident, or have not taken priests' orders within a year of institution, and certain others. 14 Feb. 1302

70. The Prior directs the Archdeacon to summon as contumacious all the names on a list of rectors and officials, and the names on another list to be fined, and others denounced as excommunicated.
Worcester, 28 Jan. 1302

Folio VIII. d.

71. The Prior directs Robert of Sutton to send or bring to him the rolls and registers of the consistories of Worcester, Gloucester and Bristol, and the keys of the chests. Worcester, 29 Jan. 1302

72. The Prior and convent certify the Archbishop of Canterbury of the death of the Bishop, refer to the composition made by Boniface, request the Archbishop to appoint the Prior as his official, and promise to render accounts. Worcester, 30 Jan. 1302

73. The Prior and Chapter appoint John of Bromsgrove and John of Broadwas to act as their proctors in all causes. 30 Jan. 1302

74. The Prior makes detailed enquiries through the Archdeacon as to the character of a presentee to the living of Upton.
Worcester, 1 Feb. 1302

Folio IX. 1302.

75. The Prior makes a similar enquiry, somewhat modified, in the case when the King presents to Kempsey.

76. Reginald, Abbot of St. Denis in France, informs the prior of an agreement between his own predecessor Matthew and the late Bishop or his predecessor, concerning the presentation to the Priory of Deerhurst, and of rendering obedience to the Bishop in virtue of the cure of souls. He introduces Peter de Torigniaco as the successor to Stephen, who retires from the priorate on the ground of age. 9 Nov. 1301

77. The Prior, sede vacante, informs the Dean of Christianity in Worcester that he intends to visit St. Nicholas and St. Helen's, and Kempsey, and requires that all rectors, vicars and priests of these churches and their chapels, with their clerks and ministers, and four trustworthy laymen from each parish are to meet him. Worcester, 31 Jan. 1302.

78. The Prior, sede vacante, directs the Dean of Powick to cite all the clergy of his deanery to attend in the Cathedral and to profess obedience. Worcester, 31 Jan. 1302

79. The Prior directs the Dean of Worcester to sequestrate and safeguard all the late Bishop's property in his deanery, informing him that the executors of the bishop refuse to administrate. Worcester, 6 Feb. 1302

Folio IX. d.

80. The Prior, sede vacante, gives leave of absence to John of Stanway, Rector of Ripple, to study elsewhere. Worcester, 7 Feb. 1302

81. The Prior appoints Stephen of Wytton and John of Bromsgrove proctors to act for him in all causes touching him or the church.

82. Agnes, Prioress of Whiston, and the convent request the Archbishop to appoint Hugh, their chaplain, as their proctor at the impending visitation. Whiston Chapter House, 17 March, 1302*

83. The Abbot of Tewkesbury appoints William de Bonham, clerk, as his proctor, to profess obedience. Tewkesbury, 18 Feb. 1302

Folio X. 1302.

84. The Archbishop orders the prior to cite to appear before him the five executors of the will of the late Bishop, who refuse to act; and to keep the property under sequestration. South Malling, 13 Feb. 1302

85. The Archbishop orders the prior and the official of the Archdeacon to insist on the surrender by Ralph, Earl of Gloucester, and his wife Joan, the Countess, of certain property detained by them, without which the executors of the late Earl Gilbert are unable to discharge their duty. South Malling, 26 Jan. 1302

86. W. of Gloucester asks the prior to allow John de Rusteshall to take away some timber from the priory which belonged to the late Rector of Campden.

* *Sic.* MSS. for 1301.

Folio X. d.

87. William Tracy presents to the prior, sede vacante, Nicholas Wichard, chaplain, for admission to the vacant living of Toddington. (See 102.)

88. The prior explains to the Archbishop that he did not carry out the order given in 58, as the Bishop's death was imminent: he begs for assistance, as the escheators have seized the Bishop's goods.
12 Feb. 1302. (See also 120.)

89. The Archbishop appoints the prior as his official in the diocese in accordance with the composition made by Boniface.
Mayfield, 17 Feb. 1302

90. The King requests G., bishop of Worcester, to admit Adam Brom to the Church of Rissington Wick.
Winchcombe, 23 March 1301. (This is an old letter.)

91. John Langton, Chancellor, recommends Adam Brom to the Prior for the benefice of Rissington Wick, as a clerk, *bone et honeste conversationis.*
York, 13 Feb. 1302

92. The King notifies the prior, sede vacante, that he has won his claim to present to Rissington Wick against John Novel, and requests him to admit his presentee. York, 8 Feb. 1302

Folio XI.

93. The King notifies the prior that he has won his claim referred to above, given in full, to present to Rissington Wick against Robert Burnel, and Beatrice his wife, and requests him to admit his presentee.
York, 8 Feb. 1302

94. A memorandum that on Feb. 24 Humphry de Waldene, keeper of the temporalities of the bishopric sede vacante, delivered John the Deyare of Gloucester, a felon found in the prison of the late bishop, to John the prior to be kept in safe custody.

95. The Prior requests the Archdeacon of Gloucester to give him full information as to the character of Adam Brom. Worcester, 25 Feb. 1302

96. The prior revives the *Confraria;* and exhorts all rectors, vicars and chaplains to receive his messengers, and assist them in collecting money for repairing the fabric of the Cathedral. Indulgences and other privileges are offered to donors.

Folio XI. d.

97. The prior writes to the prior and convent of Studley, to give notice that he intends to visit them, and that they must appear before him in their chapter at Alcester.*

98. The Archbishop gives the prior power to relax or remit the penances he had imposed on some brethren, if he can satisfy him of their amendment. Mayfield, 18 Feb. 1302

99. The Prior, sede vacante, instructs the official of the Archdeacon to summon any one who objects to his proposed purgation of Thomas the Deyre, of Gloucester, clerk, to appear before him in the cathedral at a date named. Worcester, 25 Feb. 1302

* *Sic* MS. for Studley: probably an error of the scribe who omitted a similar notice to the Prior and convent of Alcester.—*Cf.* Reg. Sede Vacante, p. 78.

Folio XII. 1302.

100. The Executors of William de Beauchamp, the late Earl of Warwick, present to the prior, sede vacante, William Dally for admission to the living of Preston Bagot. Kibworth, 21 Feb. 1302

101. The prior, sede vacante, announces his intention to visit the Deanery of Winchcombe and Tewkesbury, including the parish church of Deerhurst. Worcester, 1 March 1302

Folio XII. d.

102. John Chaynel the Rector of Toddington resigns to the prior, sede vacante, his benefice. Coventry, February 19th 1302. (See 87.)

103. John le Rous writes to the prior, sede vacante, to present Roger le Rous, clerk, for admission and institution to the Church of Duntesburne. Hausecombe, September 21st 1302

104. The Prior, sede vacante, empowers John of Bromsgrove to visit Alvechurch, its clergy and people, with full powers. Dodderhill, 2 March 1302

105. The King grants the prior and convent leave to elect their bishop, ordering them to choose a man devoted to God, fit to rule your church, useful and loyal to us and our realm. Wooller, 20 Feb. [1302]

106. The Prior, sede vacante, appeals to the Chancellor, J. de Langton, against the Custos of the temporalities, who claims half of the offerings at the shrines of St. Oswald and St. Wulstan, although these are spiritualities.

107. The Prior demands from the Vicar of Nuneaton the repayment of some money to the bearer, under threat of legal proceedings.

Folio XIII. 1302.

108. The Prior requests Francis the Archdeacon to assist Ralph de la Lee, proctor for Walter de Beauchamp. Worcester, 18 Feb. 1302

109. An anonymous letter in dog-Latin written to the monk in charge of novices. (See Intro., Section 20.)

110. Bishop Godfrey Giffard writes to the prior, sub-prior and sacrist about 4 coffers deposited in the sacristy. Alvechurch, 15 Dec. 1301. (This letter is out of place.)

111. W., Abbot of Westminster requests the Prior to pay the sum agreed on for John of Dumbelton to the Prior at Oxford or Gloucester.

112. The Archbishop writes that four of the monks, whom he names, have been unjustly defamed, and have cleared themselves. He directs the Prior to protect them from annoyance. Mayfield, 20 Jan. 1302

113. An anonymous letter from a clerk, requesting secrecy.

114. A similar anonymous letter.

115. A manumission, the first entered, dated 26 June 1303.

Folio XIII. d.

116. A formal appeal by the proctor of the convent to the Court of Rome for their right to the Church of Dodderhill.
Worcester, 26 Jan. 1302

117. The Prior, as judge delegate of the Pope, appoints a commission of four to settle a dispute between Reginald, Rector of Hanbury, and Peter of Verdun, clerk. Worcester, 20 Feb. 1302

118. Letter to the Prior probably from William of Gloucester, one of Archbishop Winchelsey's clerks. It concerns Nicholas of Norton, and those on whom penance has been imposed.

119. Henry de Bluntesden, almoner to the king, thanks the prior for a pension granted him of five marks, and asks that the same pension may be transferred to his clerk and relative, John de Grundwelle.

Folio XIV. 1302

120. W. of Gloucester writes to the prior on three subjects:—the plundering of the property of the dying bishop; the removal of the bishop's tomb; and the remission of the penances imposed by the Archbishop.
Mayfield, 10 Jan. 1302
[This is of the same date as 58.]

121. A confidential letter from an attendant on Bishop Godfrey Giffard to the Prior: the Bishop has some rancour against him, but it will pass.
[Probable date August 1301.] (Out of place.)

122. An anonymous letter to the prior about John of Dumbelton, giving gossip as to the prior's supposed reply to the Archbishop's order.
(Out of place.)

Folio XIV. d.

123. The form of appeal to Rome prepared by the Prior in case the Archbishop set aside the Composition cf Boniface. No date: but belongs to 72, of Jan. 30, 1302.

Folio XV.

[Here are bound in five leaves smaller than the folios of the book. The first is paged folio xv. They include 124—129 ranging in date from 23 March 1314 to 13 Aug. 1333.]

124. Bishop Walter Maidstone consents to the appropriation of the Church of Thornbury to the Convent of Tewkesbury, and the prior and convent of Worcester consent. London, 1 Feb., and Worcester 1 Ap. 1315

125. The Abbot and Convent of Tewkesbury promise to pay to their mother Church, the Cathedral of Worcester, four marks a year.
Tewkesbury, 3 July 1315

126. Receipt of two marks by Convent of Worcester from Convent of Tewkesbury. 25 March 1322

127. The same, dated 13 Aug. 1333.

128. The Abbot of Tewkesbury assents to the settlement made by Bishop Walter Maidstone. 10 Aug. 1317

129. Provision made for the Vicar of Thornbury on its appropriation to the Convent of Tewkesbury. Tewkesbury, 11 Aug. 1315

Folio XVI. 1302-3.

130. Bonds for the purchase of wheat to be paid at Michaelmas, 1302.

131. Bishop William of Gainsborough reappoints Gilbert of Madley as sacrist. Hampton, 28 Aug. 1303

132. Bishop William proposes to visit the monastery on Sept. 26. All are to be present and receive him with due reverence and honour. Hampton, 3 Sept. 1303

133. Letter from the Abbot of Winchcombe, to whom with the Abbot of Pershore the Presidents of the General Chapter had delegated their authority, remonstrating with the Prior on the tone of his recent letter about John of Dumbelton. 30 Dec. 1303

134. A reply to 133 which was not sent; followed by the reply which was sent, justifying his action.

134 (*bis*). Letter from the Prior to Master R. de Lacu at the Curia. Worcester, 12 Sept. 1303

135. The King's writ to the Sheriff of Worcestershire to require the Prior to permit the King's presentation to Dodderhill. Aberdeen, 28 Aug. 1303

136. W., *minister* of Little Malvern, asks the Prior of Worcester for a testimonial to the bearer for the order of a deacon.

137. Bishop William sends the Prior and Convent receipt for £40 owing to Henry de Bluntesden. Worcester, 27 Sept. 1303

138. Bishop William announces 40 days indulgence to those who pray for the soul of Matilda Hervers de Wyke, buried in the Monks' Church at Pershore, or for the peace of the Church and Realm, and the souls of the departed. Kempsey, 26 Sept. 1303

Folio XVI. d.

139. Bishop William encloses letter from Johanna de Valence, Countess of Pembroke, asking for a certain letter among the archives.

140. Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, reports that he has inspected their muniments touching their claims to parish churches, &c., and finds them satisfactory. Gloucester, 27 July 1303*

141. Memorandum that on 26 Sept. 1303, Bishop William visited the monastery.

142. The Prior requests Simon, Bishop of Salisbury, to send back Peter of Piriton.

* *Sic* MS. for 1301.

143. The official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester writes to the Archbishop of Canterbury respecting the division of the perquisites of the Archdeaconries, during the vacancy of the see.

144. The Abbot of Reading apologises to the Prior for not having made his profession of obedience, pleading distance and the cost of travel.
Reading, 21 Oct. 1303

145. The Bishop asks the prior to come to him on urgent business on Monday morning next. Alvechurch, 27 Dec. 1303

146. The Prior replies that the letter reached him on Saturday, and that on Sunday some citizens of Worcester are dining with him, but that he will come as quickly as possible on Monday.

147. The death is recorded of Robert Dymhok of Cirencester, father of brother Adam of the same, on 27 Dec. 1303.

148. The Bishop authorises the prior to receive penitents for him during Lent.
Bibury, 10 Feb. 1304

Folio XVII. 1303.

149. An appeal by the prior and convent to Rome against claims made by the Bishop. The Prior's Chapel, Worcester, 28 Dec. 1303

150. A withdrawal by the Prior of certain statements he had made respecting the Bishop's visitation and rights. Alvechurch, 22 Dec. 1303

151. The Prior requests W. de Thorntoft for legal assistance in the King's Court in protecting the Convent's right of patronage of Dodderhill. They promise suitable remuneration.

152. The Prior writes to W. de Greenfield, Chancellor, on the same subject.

153. The Prior urges the Bishop to induce Stephen of Wytton to return to the monastery, by advice or threat. They will deal with him according to the Rule of S. Benedict.

154. Memorandum that Stephen of Wytton escaped from the monastery on 13 Dec. and did not return till 20 Jan.

155. The Prior writes to R. de Hengham, Justice in the Court of Chancery, to explain an apparent slight passed on his nephew.

Folio XVII. d.

156. The Prior writes to Walter of Winterborn, summarising the case of Dodderhill, and urging him to protect the Convent from losing it, and to secure its appropriation.

157. The King demands from the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester, as sub-collectors of the tenth imposed on the clergy, with his assent, by Boniface VIII., that they proceed to pay over the money at the Exchequer on 14 Jan. at the latest. Dumfermline, 10 Dec. 1303

158. The Abbot of Gloucester encloses the King's writ, and tells the Prior that the first third must be paid at Gloucester by 25 Jan.
Gloucester, 13 Jan. 1304

159. The Prior remonstrates with the Abbot of Gloucester on the shortness of notice. Worcester, 18 Jan. 1304

160. The Bishop appoints John of Rodborough and Walter of Wotton as his commissioners to enquire into a supposed irregularity in the appointment of the prior. Alvechurch, 22 Dec. 1303

161 The Report of the Commission in favour of the Prior. 23 Dec. 1303

162. A note to the prior from some adjacent monastery asking him to excuse the late return of some monks who had been detained by them during a storm.

Folio XVIII. 1304.

163. The Prior requests William de Hamilton, Dean of York, to lend him £40.

164. The Prior acknowledges the receipt of £40. 18 Feb. 1304

165. The Prior writes to the Archbishop in surprise at his letter concerning Dodderhill and gives further particulars, respecting a pension therefrom of 100 shillings.

166. The Prior writes to G. de Middleton asking for the prompt payment of the pension of 100 shillings due from Dodderhill.

167. The Prior reminds the Abbot of Bordesley that he is bound to send them 50 pairs of slippers worth 4 pence a pair for the almonry. 19 Feb. 1304

168. The Prior recommends Richard de la Lynde to Robert of Gloucester as Rector of St. Nicholas, of Feltwell.

169. The Prior requests his friend W. of Gloucester to lend him £40.

170. The Prior asks the Bishop for full powers for dealing with the monks concerned in stealing his letters of appointment as prior. They were brought back by J. de Cestenlade, a Dominican of Gloucester. Grimley, 25 Feb. 1304

Folio XVIII. d.

At the head of Folio XVIII (b) are written the words :

Registrum tempore A. de Cyrencestre Anno M°CCC° quarto.

171. The Prior testifies to the good character of William of Dullingham. Wodehall, 3 March 1304

172. Abbot W. of Reading asks the prior to send some one to receive promise of fidelity, and guarantees the payment of travelling expenses. 18 March 1304

173. The Prior thanks the Abbot of Cirencester for providing a splendid funeral for the father of Adam of Cirencester, one of his monks.

174. Adam of Cirencester writes gratefully to the Abbot of Cirencester.

175. The Prior writes to R. de Hengham, one of the king's justices, about Dodderhill.

176. John of Harley, sacrist, recommends to the Abbot of Malmesbury, the two bearers of the letter for admission as monks.

177. The Prior writes to the Prior of Great Malvern, asking him to receive John of Madley.

178. The Prior also writes to the Prior and monks of Great Malvern on behalf of John of Madley.

179. The Prior and Convent assign to Thomas Blake a daily allowance or corrody. Worcester, 19 April 1304

Folio XIX.

180. A confidential letter from the Prior to Peter of Piriton, requesting his return to advise about the appropriation of Overbury, which the bishop is willing to consider.

181. A letter from the Prior to W. de Greenfield, the King's Chancellor, about Dodderhill.

182. At this point begins a series of "common forms," felicitous expressions of sentiment on various occasions, 47 in number. In this document are contained common forms of introduction of some one authorized to settle or discuss some matter *viva voce*.

183. Common form of remonstrance with a friend for non-payment of a debt.

184. Do. A more urgent demand, and acknowledgment of payment.

185. Do. An introduction to a high ecclesiastical authority.

186. Do. For making some request.

187. Do. An excuse for non-attendance at a meeting.

188. Do. A request to accept the proctor whom they send to act for them.

189. Do. A slight variation.

190. Do. Adding some courteous phrases to conclude with.

Folio XIX. d.

191. Do. Made suitable for singular or plural.

192. Do. A form of excuse.

193. Do. An invitation to dinner, sent to a superior.

194. Do. Urging continuance of efforts.

195. Do. Gratitude for benefits.

196. Do. Requesting promotion for some one.

197. Do. Request to take the bearer into his service.

198. Do. Sending messengers to solicit help.

199. Do. Gratitude for something.

200. Do. Do.

201. Do. Congratulations on good fortune or health.

202. Do. Gratitude.

203. Do. Gratitude, with acknowledgment of unworthiness.

204. Do. Excuse for not accepting an invitation.

205. Do. Gratitude.

206. Do. Thanks for kindness shewn to some one.

207. Do. An excuse pleading ill-health.

208. Do. Making a request.

209. Do. Gratitude and request combined.
210. Do. Do.
211. Do. Do.
212. Do. Introducing some one.
213. Do. Do.
214. Do. Do.
215. Do. Hope that an affair may prosper.
216. Do. Enquiry as to condition or health.
217. Do. Do.
218. Do. Request to employ the bearer in some service.

Folio XX.

219. Do. Opening phrases for request.
220. Do. Concluding phrases for the same.
221. Do. Form of request.
222. Do. Letter of introduction.
223. Do. Do.
224. Do. Request at starting some business.
225. Do. Gratitude.
226. Do. With enquiry as to health.
227. Do. Request for special favour to some one.
228. Do. Excuse for non-attendance.
229. Do. Request.
230. Do. Do.
231. Do. Hope that the happy beginning may be continued.
232. Do. Forms of greeting to members of religious orders.
233. Do. Enquiry as to health and prosperity.
234. Do. Apology for delay.
235. Do. Explanation of condition.
236. Do. Acknowledgment of kindnesses.
237. Do. Request.
238. Do. Do.
239. The Prior presents Peter of Piriton to the Bishop for admission and institution to the Church of Overbury. Worcester, 8 May 1304

Folio XX. d.

240. The Bishop informs the Dean of Worcester that a poor clerk W. of Stanway is to be provided with a pension out of the next vacant benefice, in the gift of the prior and convent of Worcester, in obedience to an order from Boniface VIII., and he commands him to cite the prior and convent.

241. Citation of the Prior and Convent to appear before the Bishop and show cause why they should refuse to present W. of Stanway to Overbury. Gloucester, 12 May 1304

242. A promise of fidelity and help to be given to the convent to be signed by every clerk connected with it.

243. The Prior presents to the Bishop for ordination a deacon, Richard de Stockton, for ordination as priest on the title of King John's Corrody. Worcester, 20 May 1304

244. The Prior allows on this occasion the Abbot of Reading to profess obedience through an attorney. Worcester, 5 June 1304
The commission given to the attorney is annexed. (It shows that the homage is on account of tenements in the Manor of Alveston in the County of Warwick.)

245. The Prior writes to William of Gloucester, enquiring as to the Archbishop's movements, and hoping for a visit from William. 22 June 1304

246. The Abbot of Reading replies gratefully to the prior for the concession made in 244.

Folio XXI. 1304.

247. A deed by Godfrey Giffard of 10 Dec. 1298 conveying land in Alvechurch confirmed by Prior. 2 July 1304

248. A similar confirmation of a deed of Godfrey Giffard's of Dec. 21, 1301, confirmed on July 2nd 1304.

249. The prior writes to Gilbert de Middleton respecting the annual pension of 100 shillings due to the priory from Dodderhill (see 166) while his brother was rector.

250. A similar, perhaps an alternative letter.

251. A "common form," thanks for kindness to some friend.

252. A manumission.

253. The Bishop urges the convent to give Ranulph de Calthrop every facility for study, and promises help in sending him to a place of study. Alvechurch, 20 Aug. 1304

254. A second presentation of Peter of Piriton to Overbury (see 239). 8 Nov. 1304

Folio XXI. d.

255. The Prior introduces an agent to Cardinal-priest Walter of Winterbourne appointed to the Papal court.

256. The Prior sends apology for not attending the General Chapter at Westminster, and sends proctors. Worcester, 17 Sept. 1304

257. A "common form," thanks and an introduction.

258. The Prior and Convent inspect and approve of a deed of manumission given by the Bishop on 10 June 1304, to a serf in minor orders. 11 Oct. 1304

259. The Prior and Convent inspect and approve a grant by Godfrey Giffard, made 1 June 1299, to Roger of Feckenham of tenements in the manor of Northwick. 11 Oct. 1304

260. Similar approval of conveyance of land at Wyke. 11 Oct. 1304

261. The Prior begs Gilbert de Middleton to pardon the injustice done to his brother.

Folio XXII.

262. A warm denial respecting John de Middleton and Dodderhill.

263. A letter of credence to the Prior of Great Malvern (see 177).

264. A letter addressed to W., cardinal priest of Saint Sabina, containing compliments.

265. A letter addressed to Francis, cardinal deacon of St. Lucy in Silice, recommending their proctor R. de Lacu.

266. The Prince of Wales requests the Convent to present his beloved Clerk Ingelard of Warley to a benefice and meanwhile to give him a pension. 1 Jan. 1305. (This is the first letter in French.)

267. Grants of land made by the Bishop on Aug. 3, 1304, and confirmed by the Chapter. 24 Jan. 1305

Folio XXII. d.

268. The prior reports to Master Robert of Gloucester, Chancellor of the Archbishop, that Peter of Norton, Preceptor of St. Wulstan, who had refused to obey a sentence of the Archbishop, has now, *saniore ductus consilio,* satisfied them, and requests that he may be absolved.

269. The King sends to the Bishop, and the Bishop to the Archdeacon, a preliminary summons to Parliament on Feb. 11. Burstwick, 12 Nov. 1304

270. Second notice postponing meeting of Parliament till Feb. 28. Spalding, 22 Jan. 1305

271. A letter of credence to W. de Hameltone asking him to advise the bearers about business of the monastery.

272. A similar letter to W. de Thorntoft.

273. A similar letter to Peter de Colyngbourne. 18 Feb. 1305

274. The convent grant to Ingelard of Warley a pension of four marks a year, until they provide him with a benefice. Worcester, 7 Feb. 1305

275. Memorandum of loan of £100 from R. de la Lynde to be repaid in two years, by half yearly instalments. 13 Feb. 1305

276. Memorandum that the Prior and others were brought before Hugh le Despenser, Justiciary of Astwood Forest.

277. Two manumissions.

Folio XXIII.

278. A formal grant to Master Richard of Alcester of a pension of 2 marks "while he serves us *in obsequio advocationis et nobis placuerit.*"
Worcester, 13 Feb. 1305

279. The Prior writes to Lucas de Wodeford, the successor of W. de Winterbourne (see 255) about Dodderhill.

280. A grant of a lodging in the priory to Richard de la Lynde for himself, two horses and two servants. Worcester, 16 Jan. 1305

281. The Prior requests the Abbot of Evesham to admit as a monk the clerk who bears the letter.

282. The Prior sends excuse for absence from Parliament, and names two proctors, Gilbert of Madley and Nicholas of Norton.
Worcester, 14 Feb. 1305

283. The Convent also writes to the king, and names 2 proctors.
Worcester, 14 Feb. 1305

284. The Prior names John of Bromsgrove to act as proctor in Parliament for Archdeacon Francis. Worcester, 14 Feb. 1305

285. The Prior sends Gilbert de Madley, the sub-prior, to request the support of the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry to expedite business in parliament.

286. The Prior gives private instructions, and entrusts large sums of money to G. of Madley and John of Bromsgrove, respecting Dodderhill.

287. A letter of thanks to J. de Haustude and request for further counsel on the business of the house.

Folio XXIII. d.

Memorandum written on the upper margin of folio xxiii d. Registrum tempore Ade de Cirencestria anno domini M^mo^CCC^o^ Quinto.

288. The prior writes a testimonial to John Bacoun of Stanford, brother of the late Master G., called de Northwico, who is going into remote regions—*ne de ipsius vita, moribus et conversatione dubitetur.*

289. The convent grants to W. de Thorntoft a pension for life of 40 marks a year to be paid *in aula majori in prioratu nostro Wygorn.*
15 March 1305

290. The Prior informs Peter of Piriton that according to letters from the brethren in London (see 286, 289) bonds for pensions have been given to certain clerks in connection with Dodderhill.

291. The Prior recommends to the Bishop for collation to the Vicarage of Claverdon, Richard de Stocton who has been presented by Albrach Gerardi, merchant of Florence, and agent of Archdeacon Francis.

292. A letter of credence to the dean of Hereford.

293. A request to J. de Cave to defer the payment of £8 "which you demanded from us by the King's writ," until August 1st.

294. The Prior recommends to the Bishop, Peter of Codestone for institution to the Vicarage of St. Mary atte Brodgate, Gloucester, on the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter's, Gloucester.

295. A letter of credence introducing R. de la Lynde to Richard of Bromsgrove in the King's Court.

296. Acknowledgment of debt of 18 marks to Simon, Rector of Budiford for *dragetum* (mixed meal or malt), to be paid at Michaelmas 1304.
Worcester, 2 May 1304

297. Letter of credence addressed to H. of Lichfield.

298. Letter of thanks to W. de Thorntoft, rector of Dodderhill, the king's treasurer, requesting continued assistance.

299. The convent grants an annual pension of £40 to J. de Haustude for help in the matters of Dodderhill and Worfield.

Folio XXIV. 1305.

300. The Prince of Wales requests the Prior to present Ingelard of Warley to the next vacant benefice in their gift. Sunbury, 18 May 1305

301. The Prior consents, describing the Prince's father, Edward I., as a brother of the Chapter.

302. Memorandum that J. le Carter holds two tenements in Worcester at rents of 11/- and 5/-. 4 June 1305

303. The Prior advises Hugh, Dean of Westbury (on Trym), to send the 20 marks promised to secure the observance of his obit before June 24.

304. The Dean of Westbury replies that the 20 marks are ready and will be sent as soon as he has security for the 20 shillings a year granted for his life.

305. The Prior replies that the convent will not consent. They will send the security on receipt of the 20 marks.

306. The Prior urges J. de Haustude to give our bishop the rights over Dodderhill which Godfrey Giffard possessed.

307. J. de Grundwelle requests that the pension owing to him for 6½ years may be paid to his relative W. de Grundwelle.

308. The prior replies by imploring him to postpone his claim for arrears.

309. The Prior and Convent present Ingelard of Warley to the Bishop for institution to the Church of Cropthorne. 15 July 1305

310. Memorandum that on the same day Ingelard took an oath in the Chapter House that he would never bring forward this presentation till Peter of Piriton had resigned Cropthorne or the Chapter gave him leave.

311. The prior writes to W. de Winterbourne, cardinal-priest, respecting Dodderhill, which would provide for 3 monks. 18 July 1305

312. Memorandum that execution of the presentation of Ingelard of Warley to the benefice of Cropthorne was demanded on 5 Sep. 1305.

Folio XXIV. d.

313. The Prince of Wales requests the Prior to give Ingelard of Warley the living of Cropthorne. Chartham, 8 July 1305

314. The Prior replies that he received the letter on July 14. The living of Cropthorne is not vacant. They will do what they can at the voidance, and beg the Prince to support them in the matter of Dodderhill.

315. The Abbot of Westminster hears that for two years there has been no lecturer on Theology in their school. He orders them to elect one. [Printed in Leach, "Early Education in Worcester," p. 29.]

316. The Chapter writes to Peter of Piriton on the complication that has arisen about Cropthorne and Ingelard.

317. The Prior writes to Francis, the Archdeacon, on money matters, and asks his assistance in the matter of Dodderhill.

318. The Prior and Chapter write to the Bishop asking him to appoint some sacrist other than Stephen of Witton. Worcester, 24 July 1305

Folio XXV. 1305.

319. The Bishop removes John of Harley from the office of sacrist, and appoints Stephen of Witton in his place. Alvechurch, 21 July 1305

320. Memorandum that Guy, Earl of Warwick, went on 10 July 1305 to the Court of Rome *peregre ut communiter dicebatur.*

321. A writ from the king, on Traylebaston, appointing four judges to deal with disturbances of the peace, and ordering the sheriff to give them all assistance. Westminster, 6 April 1305

322. Two of the Justices order the sheriff to assemble men from every hundred and every town, and other representatives, to meet them at Worcester on August 16. Winchester, 29 July 1305

323. Memorandum. The justices sat at Worcester for 6 days from Aug. 16: they hanged 3 men, and then went to Hereford and Leominster.

324. An accident. On 7 Sep. they returned to Worcester and sat 4 days. They hanged 3 men. One when taken to the cemetery was not dead. They laid him by St. Wulstan's tomb, where he lived through the night.

325. The Prince of Wales presses them to give Ingelard possession of Cropthorne, and meantime to increase his pension. 12 Aug. [1305]

326. The Convent replies that they are endeavouring to induce Peter of Piriton to resign.

327. Memorandum that on Michaelmas day they informed Ingelard that they doubled his pension.

328. The Prior explains the position to the Prince. The Bishop holds that the living was vacant before God and the law on Sep. 7.

329. Memorandum that Richard, the bearer of 327, took a letter from the prior (to Peter of Piriton) asking him to resign, and he refused: he also brought a letter from the Prince, and an indignant letter from Ingelard.

330. The letter from the Prince referred to in 329. The Prince threatens estrangement when any affair of the convent comes before him. 20 Sep. 1305

331. The Prior replies that it is impossible to obtain the resignation quickly. He sends a letter granting 6 marks pension.

332. The Prior writes to J. de Haustude suggesting a further interview between him and some of the monks on parliamentary business.

Folio XXV. d.

333. The Prior asks Benedict de Fereby to advise the brethren who are coming to consult him.

334. The Prior begs the Bishop to secure for the convent the appropriation to it of Dodderhill.

335. The Prior writes to William de Hameltone, Chancellor of the King and Dean of York, thanking him for many acts of kindness.

336. The Prior requests Ingelard to give a kindly hearing to the brethren who bear the letter.

337. The Prior asks the Prince to write to both the bishop of Worcester and *le Sire Despenser* respecting Dodderhill.

338. Brother N. of Norton sends to the Prior of Great Malvern a brother who wishes to enter his convent.

339. The Prior asks Hugh le Despenser to induce the King to order the Bishop, by letter or word of mouth, to assign them Dodderhill.

340. The Prior writes to Lucas de Wodeford, on the advice of Walter the Cardinal, about Dodderhill.

341. The Prior to W. de Thorntoft asking for his advice to brethren who are going to make a final appeal to the Bishop about Dodderhill.

342. A memorandum that G. of Madley and J. of St. Briavel went to London with a grant of a pension of 40 marks to W. de Thorntoft, a letter to Ingelard, and authority for arranging for the appropriation of Dodderhill.

343. The Prince thanks the prior for doubling Ingelard's pension, but presses him to hasten the matter of Cropthorne.
Kennington, 4 Oct. [1305]

344. Resignation of Cropthorne by Peter of Piriton, on certain conditions.
Sunning, 29 Sep. 1305

345. Memorandum of the total debt of the convent to R. de la Lynde. It amounted on 2 Nov. 1305 to £304 6*s*. 8*d*.

346. Memorandum that the prior did fealty to Richard le Mercer for his tenements which he claims to hold of the said Richard within the Manor of Battenhall on Nov. 2, 1305, and had a letter of indemnity from Richard and his son John.

347. A letter of thanks to Lucas de Wodeford, conveyed by Master W. de Wodeford who is to give further information.

348. A request to W. de Thorntoft.

349. Memorandum that on 7 Dec. Ingelard received the presentation from the Bishop, or his deputy in spiritual matters.

350. A manumission.

In the upper margin of folio xxvi., etc., are the words:—

Anno gratie Millesimo CCC Quinto tempore Ade de Cyrencestria Capellani.

Folio XXVI. 1305.

351. An invitation to a friend to spend Christmas with him *juxta modum.*

352. The reply, from *suus clericus*, with thanks, pleading a previous engagement.

353. A renewed demand from the king to give a suitable corrody to the *valet de son hotellerie* John of Bromsgrove.
Oseneye, 28 Nov. 1305

354. A common form, *harenga*, for making a request.

355. The Grant, with details, of a corrody, to Adam Bryd of Bromsgrove.
Worcester, 6 March 1306

356. The prior of Lanthony by Gloucester writes to explain his Almoner's refusal to admit a servant from Worcester as he had brought no credentials.

357. The Prior congratulates the Bishop on his safe return, sends him a horse as requested, and regrets that it is such a sorry animal.

The following entry occurs here:—

MEMORANDUM.—MILLESIMO TRECENTESIMO SEXTO TEMPORE ADE DE CIRENCESTRIA CAPELLANI. (Then in small hand.) **Die Annunciationis beate Marie. Littera Dominicali B. Luna currente p. xv. dies Pasche isto Anno iii. Non. Aprilis Anno regni Regis Edwardi xxxiiii.**

358. A formal grant of the usual corrody to John of Bromsgrove called le Treour; the letter acknowledging it is "in the Library."
27 March 1306

359. Memorandum that on Thursday in Holy Week, 31 March, the bishop accepted in the Lady Chapel the profession of W. de Kerswell and other monks. The bishop took the whole office and consecrated oil.
31 March 1306

360. W. prior of Gloucester invites the Prior of Worcester to attend the funeral of the abbot of Gloucester. (John de Gamage, abbot of Gloucester, died 17 Ap. 1306.) April 20

361. The bishop urges the prior to make no protest against the election at Gloucester. It will raise a scandal. Hartlebury, 10 May 1306

362. The prior and convent appoint two proctors with full powers to protest and act against John the newly elected Abbot of Gloucester and those who elected him. Worcester, 13 May 1306

363. The Abbot of Gloucester courteously invites the prior of Worcester to attend his installation on 29 June. Farley, 8 June 1306

364. The Prior sends a courteous excuse.

Folio XXVI. d.

365. The form of citation of a deanery, issued by the prior as commissary with Thomas de Weston for the collection of firstfruits for Pope Clement V. Received by Thomas de Weston 11 July [1306]

366. A long and detailed list of questions to be asked, as to vacant livings, new appointments, value of firstfruits, legacies, fines, promises, takers of the cross, Peter's pence and other dues,

367. The bishop notifies the prior of his intention to visit the monastery on Sep. 25. Bredon, 22 August 1306

368. The bishop reports to the prior the king's summons dated Lanercost 3 Nov. 1306 that Parliament will meet at Carlisle on 20 Jan. 1307. Hampton on Avon, 26 Nov. 1306

Folio XXVII. 1306—1307.

In the upper margin are written the words:—

Anno gratie millesimo trecentesimo septimo tempore fratris Johannis de Stratforde Capellani.

369. The Bishop has received letters from William Testa and W. Gerald, as administrators of spiritualities in the Court of Canterbury, authorizing him to exact from the Executors of Godfrey Giffard debts of all kinds due to the Roman Church or the Holy Land. Hartlebury, 28 Dec. 1306

370. The bishop formally requires the prior, convent, and sacrist to hand over to John of Rodborough and John of Stanway all property of the late Bishop Godfrey Giffard. Alvechurch, 13 Dec. 1306

371. The Prior and Convent acknowledge to the executors the receipt of a cup of gold, and another of silver, a chalice silver gilt, two phials of silver, a choir cope of red samite, and 40 shillings, left them by Godfrey Giffard. (*Cf.* Register of Bp. Gainsborough, p. 51.) Worcester, 24 Dec. 1306

372. The executors of Godfrey Giffard acknowledge the receipt from the convent of a coffer deposited by them with the prior and convent. Worcester, 24 Dec. 1306

Folio XXVII. d.

373. Presentation of Walter de Colewyk to the Vicarage of Wyke Episcopi and the Chapel of St. John in Bedwardyn. 25 Jan. 1307

374. The prior and convent acknowledge a debt of ten marks to Simon de Wenecote, and promise to repay it a fortnight after Easter at Budiford. 13 Feb. 1307

375. A manumission.

376. Presentation of William Peyt to the Vicarage of Cleeve Prior. 5 March 1307

377. The Prior and Convent acknowledge a debt of £10—*bone et legalis monete*—to Henry of Hampton, rector of Lycch. 4 Feb. 1307. (This entry is crossed out.)

378. The prior writes to the Abbot of Gloucester. He learns that the Rector of Alvechurch is preparing a law suit against the prior, to be tried before the abbot, as judge delegate of the Pope, and solicits his friendly support.

379. The prior grants to Nicholas of Stivyntone the wardship and marriage of John son of Nicholas David of Pechesleye until John is 21: with arrangements in case John dies, or marries without leave before 21.

380. The convent assign a pension of 5 marks to William de Thorntoft for services rendered. 25 March 1307

381. The Prince of Wales at the request of the Earl of Warwick ask for a corrody for Nicholas of Norton, a monk of the house, as a reward for good service. Wederhale, 2 April 1307

Folio XXVIII. 1307.

382. The Prior replies that they have already granted the corrody verbally to the Earl of Warwick on terms which he accepts. 30 April 1307

383. A manumission.

384. The Prince thanks them for the grant (in 382), and asks for letter under the convent seal. Lambeth, 8 June [1307]

385. The letter is sent, granting to Nicholas of Norton, a monk of their own house, the sustenance of a monk, two servants and two horses.
Worcester, 20 June 1307

386. The grant of a pension of two marks to their loved clerk William de Wodeford, until he be provided by them with a benefice.
Cropthorne, 17 June 1307

387. Sixteen manumissions all of the date 1310; inserted later on a blank space.

Folio XXVIII. d.

388. Queen Margaret announces the death of King Edward I. and requests the prayers of the convent for him.
Barnwell, near Cambridge, 2 Aug. 1307. (He died 7 July 1307.)

389. The Prior and convent reply. They will sing 1500 masses; remember him daily in their prayers, enter his name in their martilogium, and observe his anniversary, as king and as a brother of the chapter.
Worcester, 9 Aug. 1307

390. The prior acknowledges debt of £20 to John de Boreford of London, to be repaid on S. John Baptist's day 1310. Michaelmas, 1307

391. Memorandum, that John de Boreford paid them 270 marks and the above £20, for 30 sacks of their wool, 10 sacks to be given each year for 3 years at Cropthorne at 9 marks a sack.

392. Four manumissions of 1308 and 1310.

Folio XXIX. 1307.

393. Inspeximus of the prior and convent of a deed of W. bishop of Worcester determining the rights of the prioress and nuns of Cookhill in the chapel of Spernover and the Church at Alcester, and ordinations of vicarages in the same. Worcester, 25 Nov. 1307

394. A common form for admitting a clerk.

Folio XXIX. d.

395. Inspeximus of the prior and convent of a deed of Godfrey Giffard granting some land above Longdon to the Rector of the Church at Hanbury by Wych. Worcester, 17 Dec. 1307

396. Confirmation by the prior and convent of a deed of William, Bishop of Worcester, granting a messuage and 13 acres of land at Stretford in the manor of Ripple on certain terms to John Salemon, dated at Alvechurch 13 July 1305. Worcester, 16 Feb. 1308

397. The prior replies to the Abbot of St. Augustine's, Canterbury (399) that the Convent grants leave to John of St. German to reside and teach theology in their convent.

Folio XXX. 1308.

398. Confirmation by the Prior and Convent of a grant of land at Bromehale in Kempsey, by the *late* William, Bishop of Worcester. Worcester, 24 Feb. 1308

[This is the first notice of the death of Bishop Gainsborough. He died at Beauvais Sep. 17, 1307.]

399. The Abbot of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, requests the prior to allow John of St. German to come as a teacher of Scripture to Canterbury. Canterbury, 20 Ap. 1308

400. The Abbot of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, requests John of St. German to come quickly after St. John Baptist's day (24 June). Canterbury, 20 April 1308

401. Walter, Bishop of Worcester, gives leave to the Prior and Convent to appoint *hac vice* one of their number *nomine nostro* as *Custos tumbarum*. London, 14 May 1308

[This is the first mention of Walter Reynolds, the new bishop.]

402. The bishop appoints John of St. Briavel to be Sacrist. London, 14 May 1308

Folio XXX d.

403. Ordination by Bishop William of Gainsborough of the Vicarage of Wykewane (Child's Wickham). Alvechurch, 11 Jan. 1304

404. The Bishop, W. of Gainsborough, orders the Archdeacon of Gloucester to induct the Abbot and convent of Bordesley or their proctors into the possession of the Church of Child's Wickham which has been appropriated to them. Alvechurch, 14 Nov. 1303

405. The Bishop writes to the Archdeacon of Gloucester that he will sanction the appointment of a clerk in minor orders by the Vicar of Child's Wickham, though some persons complain. Wyke, 23 July 1304

Folio XXXI.

406. The bishop rescinds his letter preceding (405), and orders that the clerk must be in deacons' orders, as it was the former custom. Alvechurch, 19 Aug. 1305

407. The writer, unnamed, congratulates and welcomes the new bishop, and recommends to him C. de R. and P. de H. as suitable for appointments as his commissaries.

408. A. de B. writes to R. de L. a friend of the bishop recommending C. de R. and P. de H. as the Bishop's commissaries.

409. The Prior requests the abbot of Evesham to receive Nicholas of Aston, Junior, as his attorney to attend to a certain plea.

410. John of Bitterley requests W. de Caple, Canon of Hereford, to show himself favourable to the business of the Prior and Convent of Worcester, which is coming before him, and to Robert of Clifton their proctor.

Folio XXXI. d.

411. A corrody is granted to Richard de la Lynde. This gives the fullest details. Worcester, 8 July 1308

412. The Queen, Isabel, requests the prior and convent to grant a corrody to Alicia Conan in the priory for her life. Woodstock, 26 June 1308
[This is the first of a series of 51 letters on the same subject.]

413. The Convent replies that they are so burdened as to be unable to grant it.

414. An alternative reply is to send A. de B. to explain.

415. The Prior writes to the Bishop on behalf of the nuns of Whiston, asking that he will grant them permission to elect their own prioress, and that he will entrust the examination and confirmation of the election to his commissary or some-one in the neighbourhood on account of their poverty, and warning the Bishop against R. Tankard, *leo rugiens*.

Fol. XXXII.

416. The prior writes on the same subjects to W. de Birstone, clerk to the bishop-elect.

417. The king writes in support of the Queen's request for a corrody for Alicia Conan. Wallingford, 7 July 1308

418. The prior and convent request the king to receive John of St. Briavel who will speak on their behalf, and ask him to excuse them.

419. The prior and convent confirm a deed of manumission given by bishop Godfrey Giffard on 23 Feb. 1301 to Adam de Piry of Ruyehale. Worcester, 24 Aug. 1308

420. The prior and convent present Richard Spelly, chaplain, to the Vicarage of the chapel of Wychenford 9 Sep. 1308

421. The bishop requests the prior to send him Godfrey Giffard's mitre. London, 23 Aug. [1308]

422. The abbot of Winchcombe bears testimony to the character of R. de D. and adds that this is confirmed by J. de S. *juris civilis professor* (probably John de Stratford. R. de D. may be R. de Dicledisdone.)

Fol. XXXII. d.

423. The prior and chapter confirm a deed of bishop Godfrey Giffard's, manumitting Richard Spelly before he received the first tonsure. Worcester, 6 Aug. 1307

424. The confirmation by the Chapter of the manumission of Adam de Pirie (see 419).

425. Confirmation by Chapter of a manumission by bishop Gainsborough, 11 Nov. 1308.

426. Confirmation by Chapter of a manumission by Godfrey Giffard, 2 Feb. 1309.

427. The prior and convent confer pensions of 4 marks a year on Master J. Bloyon and Master Thomas de Teffonte. 28 Feb. 1308

428. Thomas de Teffonte is appointed Proctor for the Convent in all cases before all judges. 13 Feb. 1308

Folio XXXIII. 1308.

429. John, Prior of Lanthony by Gloucester sends a copy in one roll of all their muniments, and begs the prior to confirm it. He does not send originals on account of the dangers of the roads.

430. The prior replies that it is impossible to confirm the copies without seeing the originals.

431. (The document of muniments of Lanthony fills 4 pages and gives details of gifts from 1137 to 1278.) Confirmed in Chapter. 18 Sep. 1308

Folio XXXIIII. Muniments of Lanthony.

Folio XXXV. 1309.

432. The leases of two tenements in Worcester to Robert de Humelton, rents to be paid to the cellarer and pitancer. Feb. 24, 1309

433. A letter of fraternity granted to Master Michael de Berham. Worcester, 29 April 1309

Folio XXXV. d.

434. A letter of fraternity granted to Richard, bishop of Hereford. 9 March 1309

435. A letter of fraternity granted to Master John of Bitterley.

436. The prior writes to J. Bloyon about the conclusion of the suit against the abbot of Gloucester; the bishop's claim to control the sacrist; the Bishop's claim, won by concealing the truth, to hospitality for his officials; and R. Tankard.

437. The Prior writes on nearly the same subjects to Master Andrew of Bridgenorth.

Folio XXXVI.

438. The prior gives secret instructions to his special clerk to prevent the prior being cited if possible, and to keep matters secret unless success was certain.

439. The Prior requests the bishop to give an audience to one of the brethren who will explain their anxiety. 2 March 1309

440. The Prior writes to Master Michael de Berham asking his advice to the brother sent with the letter. Unless stopped, the bishop will reduce every one in the diocese to slavery.

Folio XXXVI. d.

441. John of St. Briavel states to Michael de Berham the facts as to the Bishop's claims in contravention of the Archbishop's decision; he regards the matter as very grave.

442. The Prior writes fully to the Archbishop of Canterbury on the same subject, pleading for help against the encroachments of the Bishop.

443. Five Manumissions, in 1309-10.

Folios XXXVII. and XXXVIII.

Anno Domini M° CCC^{mo} NONO.

The following documents are entered here in the order in which they stand. But their chronological order appears to be, 446, 447, 448, 449, 444, 445, 450, 452, 451.

444. A document pledging the Convent to give John Boter an annual pension of 5 marks, until provided with a better benefice than that of Knightwick. 27 March 1309

445. A document stating that on March 27, 1309, the convent pledged itself on certain conditions to promote John Boter to some benefice.
Signed by Public Notary, Thomas de Stokes

446. The Prior of Wormley, as one of two executors in this business for the Pope, sends to the Prior of Worcester a bull from Clement V., the Pope, ordering the convent to confer a benefice, not exceeding 60 marks as assessed for taxation, on John Boter, his deficiency in orders and in age, being in his 17th year or thereabouts, notwithstanding. The Bull is dated Bordeaux, 6 June 1306. The Prior of Wormley adds instructions and threats. Wormley, 26 April 1307

Folio XXXVIII. d.

447. The Prior and convent inform the Prior of Wormley, and his proctors and John Boter that the living of Knightwick is now vacant.
22 March 1309

448. The Prior of Wormley writes to the prior and the Archdeacon of Worcester or his official, that the value of Knightwick is much less than 60 marks: but he accepts the collation of John Boter to the living, and orders them to induct him.
Hereford Cathedral Church, 24 March 1309

Folio XXXIX.

449. Thomas Stokes, Public Notary, certifies that John Boter was duly invested and collated to Knightwick.
Hereford Cathedral Church, 24 March 1309

450. The prior of Worcester acknowledges the receipt of the mandate of the Prior of Wormley. Worcester, 1309

451. John Boter recites the Papal Bull (446), but renounces all his claim.
Worcester, 27 March 1309

Folio XXXIX. d.

452. The prior of Wormley requests the Bishop of Worcester to execute fully what the apostolic See requires in the matter of John Boter.

Folio XL. 1309.

453. A deed assigning to John of Bitterley a pension of 50 marks a year, payable in two instalments, out of the income from the Manor of More, and an honourable maintenance whenever he resides in the monastery: 50 marks also shall be paid to his nominees for a year after his death.
13 April 1309

454. An imperfect copy of 453, crossed out and partly erased, and in a different handwriting.

455. The prior and convent present John de Kyntone, priest, to Richard Bishop of Hereford, for institution to the Vicarage of Lindridge.
Worcester, 14 April 1309

456. The prior and convent present John of Broadwas, priest to the vicar general of the Bishop of Worcester—*eo in remotis agente*—for institution to the church of Sedgebarrow. Worcester, 2 June 1309

Folio XL. d.

457. The prior reminds the prior and convent of Sandwell that some payments are due, and threatens proceedings.

458. The Prior acknowledges to the Abbot of Malmesbury at Oxford on Sept. 21st, the citation to the General Benedictine Chapter, received on 26 July 1309.

459. The prior requests the Abbot of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, to defer entering on a law suit with Alicia de Beauchamp until she has had an opportunity of giving a personal explanation.

460. The Abbot of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, consents to the request, and hopes that the prior will induce the lady to concede his rights.
Sturry, 5 June 1309

461. The king writes to the prior that he needs carriages for provisions for his Scotch Campaign. Langley, 24 Aug. 1309

462. The prior writes that he will send two waggons—*deux charrettes*—with draught horses on Dec. 5th.

Folio XLI.

463. An acknowledgment that the convent owes Richard of Harley £110 for the crop of the park of Trumpelye; and fixes days for payment of £40, £40, and £30. 5 Oct. 1309

464. The Abbot of Gloucester, sub-collector for the Pope of the tenth granted for the Holy Land, reminds the Archdeacon that one half of the tenth for the present year was due on the day after All Souls' day, and issues a mandate to him or his official to notify all the clergy of his archdeaconry, regular and secular, that they must make payment before October 18th. Upleaden, 20 Sept. 1309

465. A writ from the king that the goods of clergy taxed for the tenth should not be taxed for the 25th. Windsor, 1 Oct. 1309

A duplicate of this is printed in Palgrave's 'Parliamentary Writs,' Vol. II., Part ii., pp. 22, 23.—(R.L.P.)

Folio XLI. d.

466. The Prior requests the Bishop to appoint his official to accept in his name certain clerks whom he proposed to clothe as monks at the feast of All Saints.

467. The Bishop commissions his official Benedict de Pastone to act for him in this matter. York, 23 Oct. 1309

468. The Bishop writes to the Prior to the same effect. York, 23 Oct. 1309

469. The Convent appoint John of St. Briavel and John of Stratford as their proctors to attend a Provincial Council on the subject of the Templars. 19 Oct. 1309

470. The prior sends apology for non-attendance, and sends a proctor, A. de B. to represent him.

Folio XLII. 1309.

471. The abbots of Malmesbury and Chertsey complain of bad attendance at the General Chapter, and summon, with threats, a meeting at Westminster on the first Monday in Lent.
Banstede, Dec. 3, 1309, by the Abbot of Malmesbury, and Dec. 16, by the Abbot of Chertsey

472. The prior pleads the disturbed state of the country—*magnam discordiam Baronum et Comitum*—as an excuse for non-attendance. He appoints R. of Clifton as his proctor. 8 March 1310

473. Common form for a proctor appointing a deputy proctor.

Folio XLII. d.

474. The prior appoints J. of St. Briavel as his proctor for the Archbishop's Council. London, 4 Dec. 1309

475. The prior and convent grant a pension to Adam of Orleton of 20 shillings yearly until they promote him or his nominee to a benefice.
Worcester, 5 March 1310

476. The prior and convent present Henry de Lee to the bishop for admission and institution to the Vicarage of Bromsgrove and the chapel of Norton Regis. 16 March 1310

477. Thomas, cardinal priest of St. Sabina, asks for a contribution to his expenses at the coming general Council. Avignon, 4 Jan. 1310

478. The prior speaks of heavy exactions and insecurity of the land, but they promise to send him twenty marks by their proctor to the Council.
Worcester, 18 March 1310

Folio XLIII. 1310.

479. The prior writes to the Archdeacon of Worcester to warn him that R. Tankard, dean of the Church of St. Mary at Warwick, claims the Archdeacon's jurisdiction in the church and town, and advises him to appoint a proctor, or to cite Tankard to Rome.

480. The bishop (Reynolds) requests the prior and convent to present to St. Swithun's, now falling vacant, his clerk Robert de Maydewell, an acolyte. London, 20 March 1310

481. The Convent present R. de Maydewell to St. Swithun's in the usual form. Worcester, 29 March 1310

482. Memorandum that on April 20 1310 the prior and convent presented Geoffrey of Orleton, an acolyte, to the bishop for institution to the Church of St. Martin's.

Folio XLIII. d.

483. The prior and convent grant a corrody, differing somewhat from the usual form, to William of Ripple, Chaplain.
Worcester, 9 June 1310

484. The prior and convent present to the bishop John de Houleston, an acolyte, to be ordained as sub-deacon. Worcester, 12 June 1310

485. The king appoints a commission of three to treat with "the religious" on matters connected with the war with the Scotch.
Canterbury, 25 June 1310

486. The king requests supplies, of which he gives details, for his war in Scotland. If they cannot give them, they may buy them, and he will repay. Canterbury, 25 June 1310

487. A pressing letter from the king to the same effect.
Westminster, 1 July 1310

488. The prior writes for advice to the Archbishop. How should they deal with these unheard of royal exactions?

489. The prior requests the bishop for advice on a matter which the bearer will lay before him.

Folio XLIIII.

490. The abbot of Gloucester consults the prior as to the answer to be sent to the king. It will be best to be unanimous.

491. The prior replies that after consultation with the chief persons in the province they reply that they hold themselves entirely excused; any other reply infringes the liberty of the church.

492. The prior replies to the king's mandate, but that they will do what they can at Michaelmas.

493. Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, requests that the prior shall send a waggon, 4 horses and 2 men, to be at Tewkesbury by Aug. 15. Clerkenwell, 16 July

494. The prior begs to be excused. The waggon, etc., are wanted for the harvest, and for repair of the Church *pur nostre eglise repariler.*

495. Letter from the king requesting that waggons be sent to Newark by Aug. 24.

Folio XLIIII. d.

499. The prior promises two waggons with horses and the harness that belongs to them. 27 August

497. The king thanks the prior, but recapitulates the demand specified in 486 for 20 oxen, 100 sheep, 60 quarters of wheat, and 40 quarters of ground barley meal. Nottingham, 5 August 1310

498. The prior regrets that he cannot supply these, but he sends £40, and begs the king to order the sheriff to cease his demands.

499. Two manumissions. Overbury, May 6, 1311

500. One manumission. 13 Jan. 1317. (Out of place)

Folio XLV.

501. The Prior and Convent inspect letter from the bishop of 21 Dec. 1309, and deed of Guy de Beauchamp endowing the Master, chaplains and clerks of the chapel of the Virgin at Elmley Castle with £40 a year out of the manor of Child's Wickham, and with the advowsons of the parish church of Elmley which the bishop appropriates to them on the resignation or death of the rector. Worcester, 6 Sep. 1310

Folio XLV. d.

502. The Bishop, Walter Reynolds, asks the prior to arrange for his enthronization, which had been too long delayed. London, 11 Aug. 1310

503. The Bishop writes that he will come on the Sunday before Michaelmas and begs the prior to attend in person. London, 25 Aug. 1310

504. A full account of the installation of Walter Reynolds as bishop of Worcester on the 20th and 21st September.

Folio XLVI.

505. Memorandum that on Oct. 23 the prior reconciled the cemetery of St. Oswald, acting under commission from the bishop, dated Hartlebury, Michaelmas Day, 1310.

506. A memorandum that on Oct. 16, 1310, a mandate was received from W. Testa, dated London, Oct. 10, appointing the Prior as the Commissary of the Collectors of firstfruits, to demand all arrears, and giving him full powers of coercion; payment to be made in London before St. Andrew's Day.

507. The Prior sends a copy of the foregoing mandate to the official of the Archdeacon, and adds instructions. Worcester, 18 Oct. 1310

508. The Archdeacon's official writes that he has warned all that they must pay as directed. Bromsgrove, 9 Nov. 1310

509. The Prior reports to the collectors that he has warned all the debtors whose names appear in the upper part of the annexed schedule; those in the lower part could not pay. Worcester, 22 Nov. 1310

510. The Collectors direct the prior to refrain from executing the sequestration against R. Tankard for the present. London, 26 Nov. 1310

Folio XLVI. d.

511. The Archbishop reports that the king had ordered the seizure of goods in a way he could not tolerate; and the king was cancelling the order. He called the clergy to a council at St. Paul's on 9 December to decide whether, in the king's need, the clergy should anticipate the payments of the instalments of tenths shortly to be due.
Lambeth, 5 Nov. 1310

512. The Convent appoint Richard of Alcester and Thomas de Teffonte as their proctors for that Council. Worcester, 3 Dec. 1310

513. The Bishop of Annaghdown writes to invite himself to pay a visit to the prior.

514. The abbot of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, asks the prior to assist them in sending John of St. German to Paris. Canterbury, 22 Dec. 1310

Folio XLVII. 1311.

515. The prior replies that they have supplied John of St. German with the necessary means, and will continue to do so.
Worcester, 14 Jan. 1311

516. The prior and convent, in exchange for the gift from Henry Austin of Saldford of a mill at Harvington, grant to him, with remainder to his wife, six quarters of corn annually, and appoint him bailiff for life of the hundred of Oswaldslaw. Worcester, 7 Feb. 1311

Folio XLVII. d.

517. The bishop commissions the prior to reconcile the Cathedral cemetery after effusion of blood. Windsor, 1 Ap. 1311

518. The king writes from Berwick on Tweed that he is delayed by want of transport, and begs them to send waggons to be at Newark by 7 June.
Berwick on Tweed, 22 Ap. 1311

519. The prior regrets that they have no suitable horses or harness, and sends twenty marks; they are "by divers accidents and expenses so burdened that scarce can we hold up our head—*tenir contenaunce.*"

520. The Collectors of the arrears of firstfruits claimed by the Pope excommunicate all defaulters, and give further orders.
London, 12 March 1311

Folio XLVIII. 1311.

521. The prior complains to the Bishop as to the conduct of his Steward, Milo, in Oswaldslaw, and notes the wrongs done by him.

522. The wrongs: the steward has invaded our manor and committed other illegal acts.

Folio XLVIII. d.

523. The prior writes on the same subject to the Archdeacon of Gloucester, asking him to look into the matter and settle it.

524. The writer informs Ralph de Lee that the Church of Lindridge is taxed at 20 marks; gives instructions for proceeding about the appropriation, and promises to meet all expenses.

525. Confirmation by Chapter of a deed of bishop Gainsborough of 3 July 1305 leasing certain land in the manor of Wick.
Worcester, 20 May 1311

Folio XLIX.

526. John de Ros requests the Convent to present his clerk William de Stretton to some benefice. "The Most High knows that if I could make any provision for him myself I would not burden you with my requests." London, 27 May 1311

[See *Nat. Dict. Biog.* J. de R. was Canon of Wells and of Salisbury.]

527. The convent grant to William de Stretton a pension of 2 marks, to cease if he is presented to a benefice. Worcester, 23 June 1311

528. The abbot of St. Augustine's, Bristol, requests the counsel and assistance of the prior of Worcester in obtaining the appropriation of the Church of Wotton. They desire to put an end to all causes of difference between the two monasteries.

529. The Prior replies that they have instructed their proctors in Parliament to meet the proctors of St. Augustine's, Bristol, and the Bishop, and report to the convent.

Folio XLIX. d.

530. A letter addressed to the pope, reporting that John, abbot of Walden, Laurence of Gloucester, S.T.P., Simon of Ramsey, D.C.L., and Philip a monk of Malmesbury, are appointed to represent the Benedictines of the province of Canterbury at the Council of Vienne on Oct. 1.
Worcester, 7 Aug. 1311

531. The bishop sends to his official Benedict de Paston the application from St. Augustine's, Bristol, for the appropriation of Wotton, and instructs him to consult personally the Chapter of Worcester.
London, 21 June 1311

Folio L. 1311.

532. The king informs the bishop that a Parliament is to be held in London on the Sunday before Aug. 10, and directs him to summon ecclesiastics who should attend. Berwick-on-Tweed, 17 May 1311

533. The prior reports to the king that he appoints John of St. Briavel, and the Convent appoint Robert of Clifton as their proctors.
Worcester, 4 Aug. 1311

In the margin is added the following note. *Ista procuratoria non tradebantur quia clerus vocationi regie absque mandato Archiepiscopi non tenentur parere.*

534. The abbot of St. Augustine's, Bristol, consents to concede to the Prior of Worcester, *sede vacante*, the right of visitation; and submits to the Bishop for decision the question of the cope.
Chapter House, Bristol, 27 Sept. 1311

Folio L. d.

535. The prior writes with great frankness to Francis, the Archdeacon, respecting the lawsuit on his behalf and the intrigues of R. Tankard: and begs him to act promptly. Worcester, Michaelmas 1311

536. The prior asks the bishop to delegate someone to admit and profess two monks who have worn the habit for a year. Worcester, 11 Nov. 1311

537. The bishop commissions the prior to accept the profession of the two monks, Richard of Dersinton and Nicholas Mauricii.
London, 17 Nov. 1311

[They were admitted on 25 Nov. 1311 in the Lady chapel.]

538. A summons from the official of the bishop of Worcester to the official of the archdeacon of Worcester notifying him of the summons of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the clergy, religious and secular, to attend parliament on 2 Dec. He must notify those who are bound to attend in person, and also the chapter of Worcester, and cite the other religious and the clergy of the archdeaconry to appear in the parish church of Campden on 18 Nov. in person or by proxy to elect a proctor to represent them in parliament. Gloucester, 9 Nov. 1311

Folio LI.

539. The convent appoint Robert of Clifton as their proctor.
Worcester, 25 Nov. 1311

Folio LI. d.

540. The prior informs the king that he has appointed Rob. of Clifton and Master Thomas de Teffonte as his proctors.
Worcester, 25 Nov. 1311

541. The prior and chapter confirm a deed granting a messuage and half a virgate of land in Henbury at a rent of 14 shillings a year.
30 March 1312

542. The prior gives formal permission to John of St. German to receive, hold, and dispose at his pleasure of money left him by his brother.
Worcester, 31 March 1312

543. The bishop, Walter Reynolds, sends to the Custos of sequestrations of the archdeaconry of Worcester a mandate from the Archbishop, dated London 20 April 1312, summoning a Council to deal with the Templars, and other matters, on the Monday after the feast of the Ascension. Bredon, 24 April 1312
[Nearly identical with the mandate in Wilkins' Conc. ii. 419 from Reg. Raynold Wigorn. fol. 47.]

Folio LII. 1312.

544. Memorandum that Richard of Bromwich was chosen proctor on the same terms as in the Election 12 folios earlier, *i.e.* in 469.

545. The bishop forwards to the Custos of sequestrations of the archdeaconry of Worcester from the archbishop a demand on all ecclesiastical persons in their jurisdiction to pay the first half of a levy of 4 pence in the mark, made at the Provincial Council, London, 22 May 1312, to form a deposit fund for Church purposes, and other arrears
Bredon, 1 June 1312

Folio LII. d.

546. The Archbishop orders the bishop to excommunicate disturbers of the peace; to announce indulgence to those who nourish and defend peace: and to order processions, litanies and masses for peace throughout the diocese. London, 22 May 1312

Folio LIII. 1312.

547. The king writes to the heads of all religious houses in his patronage, and forbids them to pay the levy in 545 on the ground that such a payment is in prejudice of the crown. Newcastle, 1 May 1312

548. The King, through the Bishop and the Custos of Sequestrations of the Archdeaconry of Worcester, summons the clergy, regular and secular, to Parliament to meet at Lincoln on 23 July. York, 3 June 1312

549. The Prior, as official for the Archdeacon, acknowledges receipt of £20 from R. Tankard, being expenses of law suit.
Worcester, 26 April. 1311 (in MS.)

550. The subprior and convent of Kenilworth announce the death of their prior, and request the presence of the Prior at the funeral on the following Sunday. Kenilworth, 26 July 1312

551. The Prior and convent promise 20 sacks of wool in 2 years to Richard le Mercer for £103 6*s.* 8*d.* received, and the wool of the 3rd year at 8 marks a sack. Worcester, Sunday after Michaelmas, 1312

Folio LIII. d.

552. The Prior thanks the Chancellor of Oxford for honouring Ranulph de Calthrop, and grants dispensation for him to take any lawful oath on his inception. 30 Sep. 1312
[Printed in Leach, "Early Education in Worcester," p. 35.]

553. John, Abbot of Evesham, has requested the Bishop to appropriate to them the Church of Saintsbury, and begs for the consent of the Chapter.

554. The bishop reports to the prior a complaint he has received from the Warden and brethren of St. Wulstan's Hospital, that the convent withholds from them Wulstan's pastoral staff. He urges the convent to let them have it at least till he comes. London, 27 Sep. 1312

555. The prior replies that there is no foundation of truth in the complaint of the Warden of St. Wulstan's, and makes counter charges.
Worcester, 18 Oct. 1312

Folio LIV.

556. The prior empowers John of St. Briavel to contract a loan of £100.

557. The prior provides sureties—*manucaptores*—to protect his steward from losses caused by his clearing in the wood at Wolverley in the forest of Kynfare. 20 Dec. 1312

558. The prior and convent send to the bishop, at his request through John of St. Briavel the sacrist, and Robert of Clifton the precentor, a statement and request for the appropriation of Dodderhill.

559. The statement referred to in 558, and embodied in 561.

560. The margin refers to a letter to Master W. de Birstone on the same subject.

Folio LIV. d.

561. The official of the Bishop informs the Deans of Worcester and of Wych that the Bishop has received a statement from the convent, into the truth of which he directs enquiry to be made, dated London, 21 Dec. 1312. He therefore directs the deans to summon fit persons to appear before him in the cathedral. The statement is quoted.
Worcester, 27 Dec. 1312

Folio LV. 1313.

562. The mandate from the bishop, again quoted [with the curious mistake of writing *hospitalitatis et direptionis molestia*, instead of *hostilitatis*, etc.].
The official then, writing to the bishop, reports the names of those summoned, and their assent to the correctness of all the statements made by the Prior and Convent. Worcester, 12 Jan. 1313

Folio LV. d.

563. The prior requests the bishop's assistance on a matter which will be explained verbally by John de St. Briavel.

564. The bishop of Worcester requests the prior to promote John of Broadwas from Sedgebarrow to Suckley, and to present Roger Goye to Sedgebarrow; with a further arrangement about Himbleton.
Alvechurch, 7 May [1313]. (See 629, 630)

565. The prior replies to the Bishop that many of the brethren are absent, and hopes that he will excuse delay in sending answer.

Folio LVI.

566. The bishop forwards to his official a statement from the Convent of Evesham as to their finances, and a request for the appropriation of the Church of Saintsbury, and directs him to lay it before the Chapter and obtain their consent. London, 25 Oct. 1312

567. The title of this mandate is "The reply of the chapter to the said mandate by credence." They thank the bishop for the advice and help which he gave to John of St. Briavel in London, and hope that he will expedite the business of two petitions, with others which the bearers of the present letter will explain.

568. A common form with which to begin a letter of thanks. Worcester, 17 March 1313

Folio LVI. d.

569. The prior thanks B. de Paston, for assistance in the matter of Dodderhill; and requests him to make reserves respecting his approval of the appropriation of Saintsbury.

570. The official of the bishop sends instructions to all clergy as to the reception, for occasional Episcopal duties, of the Archbishop of Armagh. Bristol, 19 Feb. 1313

There is a note in the margin that the clergy are not required to provide food and drink.

571. The Bishop directs the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester to cite all benefice-holders in his archdeaconry, who are not yet priests, to attend an ordination in the Cathedral on Saturday March 3. London, 14 Feb. 1313

Folio LVII.

572. A notarial act recording the appointment by Henry Delphinus, brother of John ii., dauphin of Vienne, Archdeacon of Worcester, of Bernard, preceptor of the house of St. Anthony in England, and two others to be installed as his proctors. Toulouse

Folio LVII. d.

573. The installation of Francis de Balma, Canon of Vienne, as proxy for Henry, son of Imber Delphinus of Vienne, as archdeacon of Worcester. Worcester, 15 Sep. 1312

574. The prior and convent under license from the king burden their manor of Trimpley, of 15 hides, held from the king in frank almoin, with a payment annually of £11 to Edward Burnel and his heirs. Worcester, 21 Jan. 1313

575. A corrody granted to Thomas Gros and his wife Marion. Either survivor is to receive the allowance given to both. 14 March 1313

576. Six manumissions of the year 1312.

Folio LVIII.

577. Confirmation of grant of land at Bromhale in Kempsey at rent of 22^{s} $8\frac{1}{2}^{d}$ to the camerarius of the Bishop. 1 April 1313

578. Confirmation of grant of cleared and other land in Hanbury juxta Wych. 25 March 1313

579. Confirmation of grant of land in Fladbury. 1 April 1313

580. Memorandum that the rent of a tenement in Neldarestrete (Needlers' Street, now Pump Street) was paid to Brother Wulstan in the Chapter House by Brumilda Spagard. 5 April 1313

Folio LVIII. d.

581. Confirmation of grant of land in Cleeve. 1 April 1313

582. The official of the Bishop cites the prior to shew cause why the Vicarage and Rectory of Hampton Meysey should not be amalgamated, at the request of the Rector. Blockley, 26 April 1313

583. William of Wormington, proctor for the Convent, opposes the rector, and appeals to the Court of Canterbury. The appeal is read in the Consistory Court of Worcester, before Benedict de Paston on 3 April 1313.

584. Notice that the king intends to hold a Parliament in Westminster on March 18, and order for usual notices.
Windsor, 8 Jan. [1313], sixth year of reign.

Folio LIX.

585. Notice that the Archbishop summons a Provincial Council to be held in St. Paul's on March 20. The notice is conveyed through the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Worcester and his official.
London, 1 Feb. 1313

586. The Abbot of Gloucester, as sub-collector in the diocese, orders the first moiety of the tenth for the Holy Land to be paid at Gloucester before June 3. Gloucester, 19 Apr. 1313

587. The Abbot of Gloucester, acting for Arnaldus, cardinal priest of St. Prisca, demands the payment of 12 marks from all Ecclesiastical persons whose income reaches £200 a year, and 3 pence per mark on lesser incomes for his procurations. Gloucester, 6 June 1313

588. Six manumissions.

Folio LIX. d.

589. The King writes from Dover, 23 May 1313, that at the request of Pope Clement V., and the king of France, *patris nostri carissimi,* he is going to France, and summons a Parliament to be held on his return, and the bishop notifies the clergy through his official.

590. The Prior asks the bishop to promote the petitions which John of St. Briavel has laid before him, and those which Robert of Clifton brings with this letter [see 563]. Worcester, 7 July 1313

591. The prior and chapter confirm the institution by the bishop of Adam de Fourches to the Vicarage of Fladbury, on the presentation of John of Stanway, Rector of Fladbury, 17 Jan. 1312.
Worcester, 8 July 1313

Folio LX.

592. Two manumissions.

593. The bishop authorises the prior to admit John of Newentone & Robert Mose as monks. London, 19 July 1313

594. The bishop orders the prior through his official to absolve and liberate from prison Robert de Wych, rector of Tredington, excommunicated for non-payment of the 4 pence in the mark, as soon as he has given satisfaction. London, 2 Aug. 1313

595. The prior states that the Rector has paid the debt, and has promised obedience, and that he has absolved him. Worcester, 14 Aug. 1313

596. The prior informs the sheriff that Robert of Wych is now legally and formally absolved, and requests that he may be set at liberty. Worcester, 14 Aug. 1313

597. William of Balaeto, Archdeacon of Fréjus, nuncius of the Pope, gives notice through the bishop's official that he requires the payment of his expenses during his visit to the province at the rate of 7 shillings a day. London, 8 July 1313

Folio LX. d.

598. The bishop commissions the prior to reconcile the cathedral cemetery after the shedding of blood. London, 18 Aug. 1313

599. The prior and convent grant to Master John of Stratford, clerk, for his labour, protection and wholesome counsel, honourable entertainment and a pension of five marks a year until he be provided with a suitable benefice. 2 Sep. 1313

600. The acknowledgment and oath of Master John of Stratford, clerk. Worcester, 21 Sep. 1313

601. The citation to Parliament is forwarded in the usual way. The meeting fixed for the 14th day after St. John Baptist's day is postponed to the Sunday after the festival of St. Matthew the Apostle. London, 4 Aug. 1313

Folio LXI.

602. A bond to pay to the bishop £100 for 382 wethers, 6 rams, 242 ewes, the corn crops at Whiston and Newlands, 60 quarters of rye, 60 of oats, and 40 of barley at Wyke Episcopi. Worcester, 4 Oct. 1313

603. Robert of Clifton, proctor of the prior and convent, appoints Thomas de Teffonte proctor in his place. 11 Nov. 1313

604. The prior and convent appoint John of St. Briavel as their proctor to receive from the bishop, Walter Reynolds, who is advanced to Canterbury, vestments, chalices, etc., which they had given to him for his chapel. 12 Nov. 1313

605. The prior and convent congratulate the bishop on his promotion, but hope that before he leaves the curia he will attend to their petitions.

606. The prior and convent write to the late bishop that they have made him a member of their fraternity. Worcester, 12 Nov. 1313

Folio LXI. d.

607. An acknowledgment from the prior and convent that they are bound to the bishop for 40 marks in payment for 42 oxen.
Thursday before the feast of St. Faith (Oct. 6) [1313]

608. The Archbishop elect writes to the prior that some persons, pretending to be of the households of certain nobles to whom he had given leave, have been trespassing and killing game on his manors.
London, 27 Nov. 1313

609. The Bishop authorizes the bishop of Annaghdown to act in the diocese as he is so much away on the King's business.
London, 18 Aug. 1313

610. Confirmation by chapter of a grant of land in the manor of Hambury juxta Wych, by the late bishop. 27 Dec. 1313

Folio LXII.

611. The appointment of Master Richard de la Lee as proctor for the prior and Convent in the Court of Rome. Worcester, 1 Jan. 1314

612. The prior and convent present to the prior as official and administrator of the spiritualities, *sede vacante*, John Walcote, clerk, for institution to the Church of H rvington. Worcester, 7 Feb. 1314

613. Confirmation in Chapter of a grant made by Godfrey Giffard in 1275 to the Prioress and Nuns of Whiston of small tithes and other things from Claines and elsewhere. Worcester, 27 Feb. 1314

614. The prior welcomes the new bishop Walter Maidstone; writes about the delivery to his clerks of the seal of the officiality, the registers, et cetera; sends a present of 50 marks, and begs him not to relax the excommunication and sequestration imposed on the Abbot and chief officials of St. Peter's, Gloucester.

Folio LXII. d.

615. The bishop thanks the prior, and assures him of his support.
London, 19 March 1314

616. The prior informs the bishop that the abbot and officials of Gloucester have ignored the excommunication, and requests the bishop to write to the king demanding their arrest.
A similar letter is sent to the Archbishop.

617. The prior expresses regret to the Archbishop that notice of his enthronization arrived too late for him to attend or to send an excuse by any of the brethren, and sends him a present.

618. The prior thanks W. de Burstone, Archdeacon of Gloucester, for certain kindnesses.

619. The prior asks the Archbishop to absolve Simon of Ambersley who had laid violent hands on a Chaplain, William Lewe, and certifies that they are reconciled. Worcester, 24 March 1314

620. The king begs the prior to send waggons to London before April 10 for use in his Scotch campaign. Westminster, 22 March 1314

Folio LXIII. 1314.

621. The prior explains that they have no horses or harness suitable. They will send 20 marks. No horses can be provided in these parts. The Convent is much pressed for money.
Worcester, Easter Monday (8 Ap.) 1314

622. Hugh Despenser asks the prior to send a waggon and 8 oxen to Loughborough by April 15. Kenington, 21 March [1314]

623. The heading of a reply from the prior to Hugh Despenser, and a blank space reserved for it.

624. The bishop writes to the sacrist respecting an outrage and an excommunication. An escaped prisoner had taken refuge within the bounds of the monastery and had been dragged from it.
Bredon, 22 April 1314

Folio LXIII. d.

625. The convent grant to Master William de Hyntes of Ludlow a pension of 40 shillings a year and other privileges. Worcester, 8 May 1314

626. A similar letter to Master Richard of Alcester, with the same date.

627. William de Hyntes pledges his service to his masters the prior and convent of Worcester—the abbots of St. Augustine's, Bristol, Wigmore and Kingswood, and lord William de Mortimer alone excepted.
Worcester, 8 May 1314

628. The form of oath taken by all clerks on receiving a pension or retaining fee.

629. The bishop (Maidstone) requests the prior and convent to promote John de Broadwas from Sedgebarrow to Suckley, and to present Roger Goye to Sedgebarrow, with a further proposal as to Himbleton.
Alvechurch, 8 May 1314
[This has appeared, out of place, as 564.]

Folio LXIIII.

630. The prior replies that many of the brethren are away, whose presence is necessary. [See 565.]

Folio LXIIII. d.

631. A letter from the king through the Archbishop and Bishops of London and Worcester reports that the malice of Robert Bruce is increasing, and that he is marching on Berwick. The clergy must help and are summoned to parliament at Westminster for May 18.
Westminster, 27 March; Otford, 4 April; Fulham, 12 April 1314

632. The prior replies to the Bishop's request in 629. Roger Goye had been charged, *sede vacante*, with crimes, and is not yet purged. They will meet the bishop as far as they can honourably.

633. The bishop informs the Dean of Campden that he intends to hold an ordination in the parish church of Campden on the eve of Trinity Sunday, June 1, and directs him to cite all who are bound by the Council of Lyons to take priest's orders. London, 20 May 1314

634. The prior and convent present Roger Goye to the bishop for institution to the Church of Sedgebarrow. Worcester, 8 July 1314

635. The prior and convent present Henry of Iddebury, priest, to the bishop, for admission and institution to the Rectory of Himbleton. Worcester, 11 Aug. 1314

636. A citation to Parliament to be held at York on 9 Sep., dated York, 29 July 1314, forwarded by the bishop to the archdeacon of Worcester. Alvechurch, 13 Aug. 1314

Folio LXV.

637. The convent appoints Thomas of Evesham, and R. de Haukeslowe as their proctors in Parliament at York. Worcester, 3 Sep. 1314

638. The prior and convent present Adam of Alcester, clerk, to the bishop, for institution to the Church of St. Clement's, Worcester, with the usual saving clause.

639. The prior and convent give a strong testimonial to Roger of Aston, and guarantee sufficient income from the priory to justify his ordination. Worcester, 20 Dec. 1314

640. The king requests a sufficient corrody for Nicholas de Renty, as a reward for good service. Northampton, 20 Nov. 1314

641. The prior replies that though in great need they will give to Nicholas de Renty a sufficient allowance.

642. A deed declaring the terms of the grant of a corrody to Nicholas de Renty, which Nicholas accepts as sufficient. 30 Dec. 1314

Folio LXV. d.

643. A deed of appropriation of the Church of Powick to the monastery of Great Malvern by bishop Maidstone is recited, dated London, 14 Nov. 1314, and is confirmed by the chapter. Worcester, 15 Jan. 1315

Folio LXVI. 1315.

644. The prior and convent report that they had inspected a deed of S. Bishop of Worcester (possibly Silvester, 1216—18) appropriating the Church of Langley to the Monastery of Great Malvern. Confirmed in Chapter 15 Jan. 1315.

645. The prior and convent of Great Malvern, as a sign of subjection and of temporal loss arising from the appropriation of Powick, offer the payment of 1 mark a year to the prior and convent of Worcester. Worcester, 20 Jan. 1315

646. One manumission. 5 March 1315

647. The king writes to John Walewyn, his escheator on this side Trent, that he is disposed to grant the request made to him on behalf of cathedral chapters and monasteries that during vacancies in which the temporalities are in the king's hands they should in future, for a suitable payment, be left in their hands; and directs him to take certain steps. Westminster, 14 March 1315

648. A model for future use for returning a writ, which is called "Dedimus potestatem."

649. Two manumissions. 1315.

Folio LXVI. d.

650. The bishop requests the prior to present his clerk, Master Gilbert of Kirkby, to the Rectory of Stoke Prior, vacant by the deprivation of the late Rector, William of Hengham. Bredon, 12 May 1315

651. The prior presents Gilbert of Kirkby, clerk, for institution to the Rectory of Stoke Prior. Worcester, 19 June 1315

652. Memorandum that Robert of Himbleton had a similar presentation to the Church of Sedgebarrow on the same date (see 634).

653. Memorandum that the lord prior in his hall, in the presence of witnesses, created John of Madley as a notary public. 27th May 1315

654. A corrody is granted to Walter Alexander, Rector of Tibberton, and his servant. Worcester, 26 March 1315

Folio LXVII. 1315.

655. A deed given by John de Pageham (Bishop 1151—1158) to Osbert the Goldsmith granting a virgate of land in Paumere is confirmed in chapter. An annual payment is due of 5 shillings, or 5 shillings worth of reasonable work from his workshop. 8 April 1315

656. The prior and chapter acknowledge the receipt of 160 marks from John de Boreford of London for 20 sacks of good wool, well cleaned. They give him 1 sack—*in avantagium*—and promise 7 sacks in 1316, 1317, 1318, to be delivered at Cropthorne on S. John Baptist's day. Worcester, 25 Jan. 1314

657. The abbots of Chertsey and Walden, presidents of the general chapter, complain of non-attendance, and peremptorily cite the prior's attendance at Northampton on Sep. 21.
Chertsey and Walden, 5 June 1315

Folio LXVII. d.

658. The prior acknowledges receipt of mandate and will humbly obey it.
22 June 1315

659. The university of Paris writes a warm commendation of John of St. German—*qui inter nos velut stella coruscans sine macula diu fulsit.*
Paris. St. Maturin's, 22 June 1315

(Printed in Leach, "Early Education in Worcester," p. 37.)

660. The prior appoints Richard of Bromwich his fellow monk and *in sacra theologia professor* as his proctor at the general chapter of Benedictines. Worcester, 16 Sep. 1315

661. The form for collation to a church in the gift of the bishop which for lawful causes had devolved to the convent. By it Master John of Stratford, professor of civil law, was collated to Kempsey.
22 June 1315

662. The appointment of Gilbert of Madley, sub-prior, and Nicholas of Cadamo, Canon of Stafford and Hastings, to act as proctors in matters of discipline of which the prior was required to take cognisance.

Folio LXVIII.

663. The prior and convent present Master John de Stratford to the Rectory of Kempsey, and he is instituted to it. Worcester, 22 June 1315

664. Confirmation by the prior and convent of a deed by Hugo de Babintone giving to Alicia de Maydenstane land at Hampton Episcopi at named rent.

665. A similar grant by Walter of Norton, rector of Hampton Episcopi, to the same Alicia now wife of Roger Corbussham, confirmed in chapter. Hampton, Sep. 1315

Folio LXVIII. d.

666. The Convent grant Andrew of Bridgenorth, for his services in the Court of Arches, a pension of 100 shillings a year. Worcester, 1 Sep. 1315

667. An identical letter sent at the same time to Geoffrey of Eyton.

668. The prior thanks the Archbishop for his goodness, and requests further advice on a matter which the bearer will explain.

669. A deed of Henry (de Soilli) Bishop of Worcester (1193—5), granting a payment of two marks a year from St. Stephen's, Bristol, to the infirmary at Glastonbury inspected and confirmed: sent by Bishop, Fladbury 14 Ap. 1315, and confirmed in chapter. 27 Oct. 1315

670. One manumission.

671. A pension of 5 marks a year granted to Adam of Harvington.
Worcester, 13 Jan. 1316

Folio LXIX.

672. An appeal to the courts of Canterbury and Rome against the claim of the official of the bishop to be entertained by the Convent when attending courts.

673. The prior and precentor request the Earl of Hereford to assist them in a matter which the bearer will lay before him.

674. The prior and convent appoint Master Ralph de la Lee their proctor in the Court of Rome. 17 March 1316

675. John de Lacy, Margaret his wife, Johanna their daughter and the ladies Alicia and Matildis de Lacy being nuns were admitted to the fraternity of the Prior and Convent. 9 May 1316

676. One manumission.

Folio LXIX. d.

677. A deed of Bishop Walter (Maidstone) granting land in Kempsey to Henry de Stodley on certain terms is confirmed in Chapter House.
22 Feb. 1316

678. A grant by Godfrey Giffard to John of Feckenham, priest, of tenements in Northwyk, to be held *jure hereditario in perpetuum*, dated 1 June 1299, confirmed in Chapter House 22 Feb. 1316.

679. A grant by Godfrey Giffard to John the Stynward of Rysindone of land in Bredon, dated Kempsey 11 Ap. 1300, confirmed in Chapter 22 Feb. 1314 [*sic*, but probably 1316].

Folio LXX. 1316.

680. A grant by Bishop Walter (Maidstone) to Richard le Honte of land in Bredon, dated Hartlebury, Epiphany 1316, and confirmed in Chapter House 22 Feb. 1316.

681. The prior and convent of Kenilworth ask the consent of the prior and convent of Worcester to the appropriation of the Church of Budiford to their use. [1316.] (See 689.)

682. Thomas, Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, supports the request of the prior and convent of Kenilworth. [1316.] Melborne, 19 June 1316

683. One manumission.

Folio LXX. d.

684. A deed securing the observance in the Cathedral of the anniversaries 4th June and 4th May respectively, of Edmund, late Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, and Blanche his wife, in return for land and buildings lying near to the Bishop's manor in Westminster, given by Thomas, Earl of Lancaster.

685. The convent admit the Earl of Lancaster and Robert of Holland, in consideration of the benefits they have conferred on the church, to their spiritual fraternity.

686. Memorandum that the annual rent of 24 shillings which the bishop received from the Convent for his house in Westminster is henceforth extinguished. Chapter House, 15 April 1316

687. Thomas, Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, sends John of Hereford to urge the convent to consent to the appropriation of the Church of Budiford to the convent of Kenilworth. Kenilworth, 6 March 1316

688. The prior and convent admit John Lovet, for his devotion to the convent and the Church, to their fraternity.
Friday after the feast of our Lady, 26 March 1316

Folio LXXI. 1316.

689. The prior reports that he has inspected a deed of Walter (Maidstone), granting the Church of Budiford to the Convent of Kenilworth. The deed is reported, dated Hampton on Avon 17 Jan. 1316, and confirmed in Chapter. 1 March 1316

Folio LXXI. d.

690. Thomas, Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, reminds the prior of his request as to the appropriation of Budiford to Kenilworth.
Kenilworth Castle, 8 Ap. (1316)

691. The prior and convent write to the Earl that they received his letter on Easter-day, and that they replied by his messenger.

692. The prior and convent present John of Walcot, sub-deacon to the bishop, for institution to the Rectory of Wolverley. . 23 May 1316

693. One manumission.

694. Thomas, prior of Kenilworth, and convent acknowledging the appropriation of Budiford, promise to pay to the bishop of Worcester, every 3 years, 4 marks as a procuration. Kenilworth, 22 Ap. 1316

695. The prior and convent of Kenilworth promise to pay 20 shillings a year on March 25 to the prior and chapter of Worcester.
Kenilworth, 23 April 1316

Folio LXXII. 1316.

696. William de Birstone, Archdeacon of Gloucester, writes on various matters. He hopes that the convent will grant a benefice to Clement de Pastone.
London, May 20, 1316

697. The prior and convent present Clement de Paston, Clerk, to the bishop for institution to the Rectory of Harvington.
Worcester, 1 June 1316

698. Hugh le Despenser writes that some of his men at Martley have been robbed and grievously injured by the prior's men, and demands explanation. Woking, 15 June

699. The prior explains that Despenser's men began the attack; they will make further enquiries.

Folio LXXII. d.

700. The prior and convent in return for 80 marks grant a corrody to the Vicar of St. John's in Bedwardine. Chapter House, 13 June 1316

701. The prior and convent present William of Adulvestre, Clerk, to the bishop for institution to the Rectory of Harvington.
Chapter House, 28 Dec. 1316. (See 697, 720.)

702. The king commands the prior and convent to give to John the Barber the same corrody which they had given to Nicholas de Renty: he had written before and received no answer. Windsor, 10 July 1316

703. The prior replies that the convent is so distressed that they beg the king to excuse them. Worcester, 22 July 1316

Folio LXXIII.

704. The prior reports that he has inspected a deed of John of Kempsey, confirmed by Walter, Bp. of Worcester, dated Bosbury, 4 Feb. 1316, founding a chantry at Kempsey. The deed is given in full.

Folios LXXIII. d. and LXXIV.

The deed is supplemented by a charter from the king allowing the grant of land—though it passes *in mortmain*—in return for a fine, dated Lincoln, 30 Jan. 1316, and confirmed by the bishop, Bredon, 11 June 1316; and finally confirmed by chapter 22 June 1316.

Folio LXXIV. d.

705. Report of assize court held at Worcester, 6 Aug. 1316, before Henry Spigurnel and John de Trillawe, in the case of the prior and Robert of Clifton *v.* others in the matters of common pasturage at Harvington.

706. The prior and convent present Robert de la Felde, priest, to the bishop for institution to the church and vicarage of Bromsgrove.
Worcester, 29 Aug. 1316

Folio LXXV.

707. The king repeats his command of 702. He regards the excuses as untrue, feigned and frivolous, and insists on obedience.
Lincoln, 8 Aug. 1316

708. The prior again prays to be excused. They are so burdened by the purchase of corn, and by murrain among their beasts, that they cannot support the charities of the house.

709. Common form for appointing proctors.

710. The prior and convent appoint Richard of Bromwich as their proctor in all business arising between the bishop and the chapter : no action to be taken without the advice and consent of Geoffrey of Eytone and Andrew of Bridgenorth and John of Stratford.

Folio LXXV. d.

711. Confirmation of lease of 12¼ acres of land at Tredington. This land consists of 52 *seliones*, or strips, in the open fields. 18 Oct. 1316

Folio LXXVI. 1316.

712. The king again writes about the corrody for John of Kempsey (the barber) as a request. York, 30 Sep. 1316.

713. The prior repeats his request for pity—*prioms en noun de charite qe de nous voillez avier pite.* 20 Oct. [1316]

714. The prior and convent assign a corrody to Master William de Schokerwych, Mason, in return for 60 l.

715. The prior and convent present Master Richard Bloyou, clerk, to the bishop for institution to the Rectory of St. Martin's, Worcester.
Worcester, 17 Oct. 1316

Folio LXXVI. d.

716. The king complains that his mandate concerning John the Barber has not been obeyed. If the corrody is not granted the prior must appear before him on the 25 Nov. to explain. Newburgh, 2 Nov. 1316

717. A formal grant—*ad instanciam regis*—to John the Barber, of a corrody.
Worcester, 6 Dec. 1316

718. John the Barber acknowledges the corrody, and is willing to surrender it from time to time for 4 shillings a week. Worcester, 6 Dec. 1316

719. The prior and convent present Robert of Hanbury, clerk, to the Bishop for institution to the Rectory of Stoke Prior. 27 Dec. 1316

720. Memorandum that Master William of Adulvestre, clerk (see 701), renounced the Church of Harvington within 3 days of his presentation to it.

Folio LXXVII. 1317.

721. A declaration by the prior and convent that in presenting Master John of Bitterley to the church of Overbury they do not intend that he should lose his pension of 50 marks. 2 Jan. 1317

722. The prior and convent present William of Ludlow, clerk, to the bishop for institution to the Church and Rectory of Harvington. 2 Jan. 1317

723. John of Bitterley is similarly presented to the Rectory of Overbury. 4 Nov. 1316

724. Record in King's Bench between Sir Henry, lord of Ribbeford, and the convent concerning freehold in Horsley.

725. Creation by the Prior of two public notaries, John Crumpe of Worcester, and Simon Dragum of Wych. 4 April 1317

Folio LXXVII. d.

726. The official of Hereford, deputed by the Archbishop to act as keeper of spiritualities during the vacancy of that see, reports that the muniments of the prior and convent concerning the appropriation of Lindridge are sufficient. Hereford, 30 April 1317

727. The prior reports inspection of deed by Godfrey Giffard assigning land in Alvechurch. The deed is confirmed in Chapter House, 22 May 1317.

Folio LXXVIII. 1317.

728. The king urgently appeals that carriages to aid in the war may be sent to York before 4 July at the latest. Westminster, 6 June 1317

729. The prior replies that they have no horses or waggons, but he sends ten marks.

730. One manumission.

731. John de Wyke, prior, appoints Thomas Ingram of Wych to hold his court in Wych and to receive his rents. Worcester, 1 Aug. 1317

Folio LXXVIII. d.

732. The prior reports inspection of deed by which the Abbot of Lire in Normandy transferred to Little Malvern, for 16 marks a year, their rights in the church and parish of Hanley. The transfer is approved by the bishop, and confirmed in chapter. 1 July 1317

733. The prior and convent send their greeting to the new bishop Thomas Cobham, or to his Vicar, *ipso in remotis agente*. They present to him Robert of Hanbury, Clerk, for institution to the church of Stoke Prior, by way of exchange with William de Hengham for the church of Fange-at-Noke in the diocese of London.
Worcester, 23 Sep. 1317

Folio LXXIX. 1317.

734. The prior reports that he has inspected a deed by which Walter (Maidstone), bishop of Worcester, after full enquiry through the bishop of London, appropriates the Church of Great Compton to the Convent of Walden. The deed is dated Hillingdon 5 Dec. 1316: and confirmed in chapter 12 April 1317

Folio LXXIX. d.

735. Confirmation by the chapter of a grant of land by Walter Maidstone, for 40 shillings a year. 4 June 1317

736. Memorandum that, with the consent of the prior, brother J. de G. the Sacrist had received on loan £10 from Richard de la Lynde.

Folio LXXX. 1317.

737. Confirmation of the late bishop Walter's appointment of William Brounon as bailiff of the liberty of Oswaldslaw for the sum of ten marks a year, dated at Dover, 28 Jan. 1317. May 6, 1317

738. The prior reports that he has inspected a deed of Walter Reginaldi (*sic*), late bishop of Worcester, granting a field of 65½ acres of ploughland in Alvechurch to Nicholas of Quenton for 24 shillings. The deed dated Windsor, 7 Ap. 1311. Confirmed 22 May 1317

Folio LXXX d.

739. Adam (Orleton) invites the prior to be present at his inthronization as Bishop of Hereford, on Oct. 2.
Edington,* —— day of September [1317]

740. The prior sends affectionate greetings to Adam, lord bishop of Hereford; and life and health being granted him he will obey his command.

[This is probably the last letter written by the prior; he died on Oct. 5.]

741. James de Cobham, Vicar General for the bishop, commissions John of Broadwas to act in his place in admitting monks.
London, 14 Sep. 1317

742. Memorandum that on payment of 10 marks John le Bruth was made weirman—*gordarius*—at Bevereye. When he can no longer fulfil the duties, for another 10 marks he will receive a corrody for life.
21 Oct. 1317

Folio LXXXI. 1317.

743. The prior and convent, after previous correspondence, send Simon of Defford, a turbulent monk, to undergo his penance in the monastery of Gloucester.

* *Sic* MS. The Bishop was at Edington in Wiltshire from Sept. 2 to 9. *Cf.* Registrum Ade de Orleton (Canterbury and York Society), pp. 20, 21, 24.

Folio LXXXI. d.

744. The abbot of St. Peter's, Gloucester, replies that he will accept the troublesome brother, and will report as to conduct and signs of penitence. 24 Aug. 1317

[The documents 745—749 that follow are all of earlier date, perhaps obtained among the late prior's papers, and inserted here. No. 749 is not on a numbered folio.]

745. The king entrusts the care of the Manor of Lawarne, lately belonging to the Templars, to the Prior of Worcester. A valuation is to be made, and rent paid to the king's treasurer. 27 Jan. 1309

746. Memorandum that on Feb. 15 the Sheriff handed over to the prior the custody of the Manor of Lawarne, with a valuation of all it contained, amounting to £17 1*s*. 15 Feb. 1309

Folio LXXXII.

747. Memorandum that the custody of the manor and the chattels, with a fresh valuation, were handed back to the sheriff on July 8 1309.

748. A summary of the transaction and valuation and rents, as between King and Sheriff and Prior, taken from the Remembrancer's Roll of Trinity Term, 19th Ed. II., citing a memorandum of 2nd Ed. II. It refers to the period 27 Jan. to 9 July 1309.

Folio LXXXII. d.

749. An inserted document, 22 June 1303. The archbishop of Canterbury writes to the prior that some of the brethren have brought unfounded charges against Gilbert of Madley the sacrist and John of Harley cellerar. He explains his refusal to confirm the election of John of St. German as bishop; and writes severely of the monks' slander. Walden, 22 June 1303

INDEX.

The numbers are those of the documents.

C

D

E

I

J

K

Q

R

S

LIBER ALBUS.

PART II.

ABSTRACTS OF DOCUMENTS 750—1286 BELONGING TO THE PRIORATE OF WULSTAN DE BRANSFORD, ON FOLIOS LXXXIII—CLXII.

A.D. 1317—1338.

Folio LXXXIII.

750. A full and formal report of the method of choosing seven out of the monks, from whom the Bishop was to select one as prior, with list of the monks in order of seniority. 20 Oct. 1317

Folio LXXXIII. d.

751. The selection by the Bishop of one of the seven, Wulstan of Bransford, as prior, given in full detail. 1317

Folio LXXXIV. d.

752. The Bishop informs the chapter and all the tenants of the priory of the selection of Wulstan of Bransford as the new prior. London, 23 Nov. 1317

753. The Bishop orders the official of the Archdeacon to instal and induct the new Prior, and to instruct the convent to pay him canonical obedience. London, 23 Nov. 1317

754. The official of the Archdeacon certifies to the Bishop that the prior has been duly installed and inducted. 2 Dec. 1317

755. The prior asks the Bishop to authorize the admission and clothing of four monks, whose names are given.

756. The Bishop appoints John of Broadwas as his commissary to examine them. Three are accepted, one delayed as under age.

Folio LXXXV.

757. The prior requests James of Cobham, the Bishop's official, to send him a formal deed of appointment; and the money he has received for the Cardinal's procuration, and list of those who have not paid.

758. The prior asks Robert of Luffenham for letters respecting his appointment, also for letters dimissory, so that W. of Ludlow, Rector of Harvington, sub-deacon, may be ordained deacon.

759. Robert of Luffenham will send letters when James of Cobham returns. Receipts for procurations collected will be sent by Robert of Corton. He offers cordial friendship. London, 9 Dec. 1317

760. The prior to the Bishop respecting the collection of tenths from the clergy for the King.

761. The prior to Robert of Corton asking for commission as collector and deed of appointment as prior.

762. The prior again to Robert of Luffenham for the same deed of appointment.

Folio LXXXV. d.

763. The prior to the Bishop; thanks for allowing increase in number of monks.

764. The prior to the abbot of Tewkesbury, or in his absence to the prior, enclosing letter from the Bishop and a bull.

765. Reply from John of Cotes, prior of Tewkesbury, asking the prior of Worcester to carry out the provisory business.

766. Lucas, Cardinal-deacon of S. Maria in Via lata, asks the prior to provide for a friend who has lost his income through the war. London, 4 Dec.

767. The prior replies courteously, but pleads poverty, and begs to be excused.

768. The prior to the abbot of Gloucester, recalling Simon of Defford, and enclosing forty shillings in payment for his visit to the convent of Gloucester.

769. The abbot of Gloucester reports very favourably of Simon of Defford, and sends back the forty shillings.

Folio LXXXVI.

770. Private instructions sent by the prior to his legal adviser as to meeting certain claims made on behalf of the King.

771. The prior sends John of Stratford, his fellow monk, to arrange some business with the prior of Kenilworth.

772. The prior asks for receipts and accounts from some one who along with the late prior was commissioned to collect first-fruits of livings for Pope Clement. Jan. 1318

773. John of Harley warmly thanks the prior of Netley for rescuing his brother Roger, who had fallen into sin.

774. John of Harley writes a letter of advice and affection to his brother Roger at Netley.

775. The prior writes on business to Thomas de Teffonte and promises that his pension shall be paid.

776. The prior to Geoffrey of Eyton, admitting that the pension is overdue, The bearer will explain.

777. The prior asks the bishop of Hereford to assist the bearer.

778. The prior asks the advice of the bishop in a matter which the bearer will explain.

Folio LXXXVI. d.

779. The bishop asks the prior to appoint, for him, one of the two *custodes* of the shrine of St. Wulstan. London, 30 Jan. 1318

780. The prior, at the request of William de Thorntoft, Rector of Dodderhill, pardons the wrongs he has done them, and admits him to their fraternity. Feb. 1318

781. The prior gives high testimonial to the Rector of Elmley Lovet, who asks for leave of absence for 5 years to study abroad.

782. The prior asks the bishop to relieve Robert of Clifton, holding the two offices of cellerar and sacrist, of the office of sacrist.

783. Robert of Clifton also writes to the bishop, making the same request.

784. The prior demands payment of half a mark from the Vicar of Stanway, under threat of summons before the Archbishop for perjury. 17 Feb. 1318

Folio LXXXVII.

785. The prior to the abbot of Burton on Trent, to excuse delay in the return of two monks whom he had detained.

786. The prior to the abbot of Cirencester, commending a young priest who desires admission there.

787. The prior to the bishop on behalf of the prioress of Whiston, asking that he will depute some one to admit her.

788. The prior appeals to John of Bitterley not to be angry at delay in the payment of his pension.

789. The prior gives private instructions to his legal adviser on some question of provisors.

790. The prior and chapter present to the bishop of Hereford a clerk to be admitted to all holy orders on the title of their house. 13 March 1318

791. The prior asks the bishop to assist them in a matter which the bearer will explain.

Folio LXXXVII. d.

792. A private letter to the bearer of 791, to urge the bishop to consent to their farming out the Church of Bromsgrove for five years.

793. The prior to the sequestrator of the bishop describing the penance to be imposed on those who have stolen timber from Priory woods. 1318

794. The prior commends to the prior of Tewkesbury the bearer, who wishes to enter that convent.

795. The bishop consents to the request in 791-2, that they may farm out the Church of Bromsgrove for three years, on conditions. London, 17 March 1318

796. The bishop grants dimissory letters to three monks, subdeacons, to be advanced to deacon and presbyter. London, 21 Jan. 1318

797. The bishop licences certain monks to preach and hear confessions; conditions are specified. 17 March 1318

Folio LXXXVIII.

798. The prior thanks William de Thorntoft for services, and wishes to buy from him *dragetum* (a coarse kind of corn).

799. The prior warns R. de Lacu, his proctor in the Court of Rome, against a plot of R. Tankard.

800. The prior commends J. de W., clerk, to the abbot and college of St. Mary's de B. for admission.

801. The prior writes to the prior of Coventry on behalf of a private tutor, unjustly threatened with the loss of his pupils by the *rector scolarum* of that city.

802. The prior warns the prior of Wroxton not to disturb Petronilla of Wormsley, whose rights will be defended.

803. The prior consults Andrew of Bridgnorth and G. of Eyton as to the demands for horses and money made by Gaucelinus, Cardinal priest of St. Marcellinus and St. Peter, on the convents of Tewkesbury and Winchcomb.

Folio LXXXVIII. d.

804. The prior to the bishop of Winchester, the collector for the annual tenth imposed on clergy by Pope John XXII., gives particulars of payments made. 15 July 1318

805. The prior to Rigaud de Asserio, Papal Nuncio, on the same subject. 2 July 1318

806. The king asks for a corrody for Geoffrey Corouner in place of Nicholas de Renty, deceased. Northampton, 12 July 1318

807. The prior replies that the corrody was given at the king's request two years ago to John the Barber.

808. The bishop empowers the prior to admit in his name two nuns to the convent at Wychstone (? Whiston). London, 21 Aug. 1318

809. The bishop authorises the prior to admit John of Winchcombe, John of Westbury and John of Ancredam as monks, their year of probation having expired. York, 17 Nov. 1318

Folio LXXXIX.

810. The prior appoints John of St. Briavel his proctor to shew accounts of first fruits to Rigaud de Asserio. 14 Jan. 1318

811. The prior appoints John of St. Briavel as his proctor to account for the 4 pence in the mark claimed by the two cardinals. 14 Jan. 1318

812. Thomas de Teffonte is appointed proctor for the prior and convent in all causes. 8 Jan. 1318

813. John of Stratford, brother and fellow monk, is similarly appointed their proctor in all causes. 8 Jan. 1318

814. John of St. Briavel appointed their proctor in Convocation. 2 Feb. 1318

Folio LXXXIX. d.

815. The prior recovers rights and damages in a suit in the Court of Worcester.

816. Memorandum that a fine (*tallagium*) of £10 is paid to the King in connection with the appropriation of Tibberton. Feb. 1318

817. Five manumissions. 1318

818. One manumission for which one penny is paid annually *pro chevagio*, or poll money, and five others. 1318

Folio XC.

819. Hugh of Statherne, Archdeacon of Gloucester, appoints proctors for himself on admission. Cambridge, 21 May 1318

820. The bishop's Official orders the prior to instal by proxy the new Archdeacon of Gloucester. Gloucester, 3 June 1318

821. Certificate that the Archdeacon was duly installed in the choir by proxy. 5 June 1318

822. The form of words used at the installation.

823. The formal protest of the prior that the installation conveys no rights beyond those specified in the commission and customary, and gives no voice or place in the chapter.

824. Certificate that this protest was read. 1318

825. The Oath taken by the Archdeacon that he will observe all the statutes and customs of the Cathedral.

Folio XC. d.

826. The bishop authorizes the prior to receive the profession of a nun in the convent at Whiston. Leicester, 26 March 1318

827. The form of profession of a nun on admission. 12 July 1318

828. The prior and convent let land in Wolverley to the Rector of Quatt and another. The measure used for the land is noteworthy: *pertica continens sexdecim pedes et dimidium regales.* 15 Feb. 1318

829. Lucas, cardinal-deacon and nuncio, demands a riding horse fully equipped. Northampton, 15 July 1318

830. A receipt from the Chamberlain of the nuncio for the horse. Erwahaton, 8 Aug. 1318

831. An exchange between the incumbents of Harvington and Suckley.
11 Dec. 1318

Folio XCI.

832. The convent guarantees income as title for holy orders. 21 Dec. 1318

833. The prior asks the bishop's consent to an exchange between the rectors of Harvington and Suckley.

834. The prior requests the abbot of Ramsey to send back R. de Cathrop, whom they had lent as a lecturer, and to supply a carriage.
Dec. 1318

835. The abbot of Ramsey cannot send a carriage, hopes that R. de C. may come back to them, and complains of the letter sent to R. de C.
Ramsey, 19 Dec. 1318

836. The letter complained of.

Folio XCI. d.

837. The abbot complains of unworthy and ungrateful action of the prior.
Ramsey, 19 Dec. 1318

838. The prior defends himself. Charity begins at home.

839. The prior's reply to 835.

840. The bishop commissions his official, John Bloyon, to judge of the fitness of two clerks for admission as monks. Hampoll, 13 Sep. 1318

841. The prior directs the prior of Little Malvern to present one of the two clerks, who was then staying with him, to John Bloyon.

842. Manumission. 15 Aug. 1319

Folio XCII.

843. The prior writes confidentially to Master John of Stratford, his trusted legal adviser, respecting appointments pending.

844. The prior invites A. de H. to spend Christmas with him. 1318

845. The prior sends W. de L. to the bishop of Hereford with a letter. 1318

846. The prior again asks advice from A. de H. and begs him to come over early in January. 1319

847. The prior to Master John of Stratford, as in 843, warning him of the reported intentions of the bishop of Hereford.

848. Richard of Bromwich to the Presidents of the General Chapter, who had appointed him to visit, as to arrangements for travelling.

Folio XCII. d.

849. The prior consults the abbot of Gloucester as to postponing a visitation ordered by the Presidents.

850. The abbot replies, enclosing the opinion of Master John of Stratford. They might legally object, but he advises them to admit the visitors.
Gloucester, 10 Jan. 1319

851. The prior to the abbot of Gloucester that the visitation is postponed till after Jan. 25.

852. The prior to Ralph of London, prior of Shrewsbury, asking him to visit them last instead of first.

853. The prior of Shrewsbury replies that he will do so, and will visit them on 26 Jan.

Folio XCIII.

854. The prior writes to the abbot of Evesham, proposing common action. He encloses copy of letter to the abbot of Gloucester, pointing out the flaw in the appointment of the visitors.

855. The abbot of Evesham concurs, and gives additional reasons for postponement.

856. The prior writes to the abbot of Evesham that the Worcester visitation is postponed, and suggests that he also might obtain a similar concession.

857. The abbot of Evesham informs the prior that he has obtained a postponement till Midlent Sunday.

858. An agreement between the convent and Henry the bellfounder as to terms of payment by corrody.

Folio XCIII. d.

859. The convent let their mills at Wolverley to the Rector of Quatt, reserving fishing rights in the Stour. 27 Oct. 1318

860. The bishop reports to the prior that archbishop Walter Reynolds, instead of the mitre which was said to have belonged to Bishop Giffard, has sent him a noble mitre, and asks the prior to send a receipt.
London, 26 Feb. 1319

861. The prior replies that he cannot conscientiously do so under the circumstances.

862. The prior to the archbishop, asking to be excused from attendance at the provincial Council on account of the expense.

Folio XCIV.

863. The prior to Andrew of Bridgnorth, asking him to arrange an audit of his collection of the tenth without requiring his presence.

864. The bishop of Winchester, at Andrew of Bridgnorth's request, gives permission to the prior to be absent. Southwark, 23 Feb. 1319

865. A summary of the tenth collected in the Archdeaconry of Worcester. Total £736 5 10¼. 25 Jan. 1319

Folio XCIV. d.

866. The bishop of Winchester to the prior, approving his account.
Southwark, 28 Ap. 1319

867. A covenant concerning a mill-race or fleet at Berchestone on Stour. 1319

868. A lease of Cotele Mill and Moor belonging to the Rectory of Bromsgrove. Aug. 1319

869. The bishop authorizes the admission of Philip of Pirybrook and John of Winchcombe as monks. 23 Feb. 1320

870. Memorandum of their admission. 7 March 1319

Folios XCV. and XCV. d.

871. Commission on the income of the Vicar of Astley, a church appropriated to the Monastery of St. Taurin in Normandy. 23 July 1314, and confirmed by chapter 6 Aug. 1319.

Folio XCVI.

872. The painted chamber in the priory is granted to John of Bitterley, a corrody holder. 6 Aug. 1319

873. A record that the abbots of Cirencester and Tewkesbury, and the priors of Great Malvern and Worcester, had rendered satisfactory accounts as collectors of the tenth for the King.

874. Two manumissions, one of them a clerk. 1320

Folio XCVI. d.

875. William de Estaniaco, rector of Stratford on Avon, appoints John Streche his proctor with power to exchange. Lincoln, 16 Oct. 1319

876. John Streche, proctor of William de Estaniaco, Rector of the Church of Overbury, appoints Richard de Regenhull as his substitute. Overbury, 29 Oct. 1319

877. In the presence of Master John of Stratford, archdeacon of Lincoln, and others, in the prior's hall at Worcester, Richard de Regenhull as proctor for William de Estaniaco resigns the rectory of Overbury. Priory, Worcester, 30 Oct. 1319

878. This is confirmed by William de Mees, notary public.

879. John called Geraud of Stratford on Avon, rector of Netelham, in diocese of Lincoln, is presented to Overbury in exchange. 29 Dec. 1319

Folio XCVII.

880. Confirmation by prior and convent of the rights of Vicar and Chaplain in a Chantry founded by Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, in the Church of Overe Etyndone (Ettington). 28 Dec. 1319

Folio XCVII. d.

881. The King asks for a corrody for his valet Peter Davillers. York, 7 Jan. 1320

882. The prior replies that they already have John the Barber, a leper; that the convent is sorely pressed, and begs to be excused. 3 Feb. 1320

883. Confirmation of lease of land in Old Stratford. 12 March 1320

Folio XCVIII.

884. A pledge by Robert de Valoygnes before the barons of the Exchequer to pay the prior 100 marks a year during the life of Thomas de Bertone.

885. Three manumissions. 1320

886. The Vicars of St. Andrew's, Worcester, and of Astley, exchange; and Henry of Dersyntone is presented to St. Clement's, Worcester. 1320

887. Permission granted to Richard of Bromwich to become prior of Abergavenny. 4 Oct. 1320

888. Five manumissions. 1321

Folio XCVIII. d.

889. Lease by the bishop of land in Hembury *in salso marisco.* 20 Oct. 1320

890. Lease by the bishop of land in Bredon. 20 Oct. 1320

891. Corrody and oath of Henry of Hampton, clerk, the medical attendant of the convent. 27 Aug. 1320

Folio XCIX.

892. Corrody granted to the chief porter for £25 (with interesting particulars). 19 Oct. 1320

893. The Archbishop to the prior claiming restoration of certain tithes to the Rector of Tredington. Lambeth, 6 Nov. 1320

894. The prior explains and sends particulars to Master John of Stratford, who will give fuller information.

Folio XCIX. d.

895. John of Stratford writes to the prior and explains the legal position. He will get the matter settled.

896. Wulstan the prior replies to Master J. de S., addressing him as the Archdeacon of Lincoln, sending him copies of the documents required.

897. The King sends his clerk to the prior and demands a corrody for Peter Davillers. Shene, 6 Dec. 1320

898. The King requires the prior to receive Peter Davillers in the place of John the Barber, deceased. Westminster, 22 Nov. 1320

899. Hugh Despenser writes a similar letter. Shene, 6 Dec. 1320

Folio C.

900. Erased: a few words decipherable: perhaps a letter addressed to the King.

901. Erased: but some words indicate that it described a corrody.

902. The convent grant a pension of 20 shillings to John de la Lowe. 14 Feb. 1321

903. An exchange between the Rector of Churchill *juxta* Aston and the Vicar of Wichenford. 7 May 1321

904. Manumission. 1321

905. Manumission; it is however noted—*non tamen fuit pure nativus.* 1322

Folio C. d.

906. A grant by the prior and convent of Worcester to the prior and convent of Great Malvern of lands and tenements in Powick, Bransford and Leigh. Given in great detail with many local names.

907. A summons to meet in Parliament at Westminster for 3 weeks beginning on St. John Baptist's day. London, 2 June 1321

Folio CI.

908. The prior to the Archbishop appointing Thomas of Evesham and John Geraud, Clerks, as his proctors in Parliament. 4 July 1321

909. The prior to the King, on the same subject.

910. The chapter informs the King that they have appointed John Geraud, clerk, as their proctor in Parliament. 4 July 1321

911. Manumission. 1322

Folio CI. d.

912. The King requests the convent to confirm the appropriation to the Abbey of Gloucester of the Church of Hatherop. Westminster, 8 May 1321

913. The prior replies that as they have not heard from the bishop they are unable to grant his request.

914. Homage done to the prior for a manor. 5 May 1321

Folio CII. recto is blank.

Folio CII. d.

915. Exchange of benefices between the rectors of Himbleton and Islip. 23 Jan. 1321

916. Lease for 50 years of the Mill of Sedgeberrow; with full details: preference to be given to the convent and their *villani.* 21 Nov. 1321

917. The Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield invites the prior to his enthronization.

Folio CIII.

918. Adam de Champneys of Sandwich, Archdeacon of Worcester, appoints proctors to represent him at installation. London, 6 Aug. 1321

919. The bishop informs the prior that he has instituted Adam de Champneys as archdeacon. London, 6 Aug. 1321

920. The prior publicly announces that by installing the archdeacon he gives him no voice in the chapter or any rights in the church.

921. Installation of the Archdeacon's proctor.

922. Certificate sent to the bishop of the installation.

923. Witnesses of the Protestation in 920.

924. Oath taken by Archdeacon's proctor.

925. The bishop authorizes the prior to admit William de Peyto, Richard Colys of Worcester and William de Tony as monks.
Hartlebury, 9 Dec. 1321

Fol. CIII. d.

926. The prior appoints Roger de Swafield proctor for the convent in the Roman Court. 14 Sep. 1321

927. Roger de Swafield gives receipt for 20 shillings, his year's salary as proctor at the Roman Court. 14 Sep. 1321

928. The prior and convent acknowledge debt of 225 marks to William le Boys and Ralph of Parham. 1 Oct. 1321

929. The convent confirm a lease by the bishop of waste land—*platea vasti*—in Hambury *juxta* Wych [Hanbury]. 11 Oct. 1321

930. Manumissions. 1322

931. John Bloyon's pledge for loyal service as legal adviser to the convent [inserted here in the volume]. 24 March 1307

Folio CIV.

932. Lease granted of the mill at Tydington in Alveston, Warwickshire, with interesting conditions. 14 Sep. 1321

933. The Vicar of Tibberton resigns his benefice. 14 Nov. 1321

934. Presentation of Alexander de Stodleye to the Vicarage of Tibberton.
21 Nov. 1321

935. The king asks the prior to send strong men, well mounted and equipped, to assist him on the Welsh Marches. Reading, 12 Dec. 1321

Folio CIV. d.

936. The prior replies that they are unable to find men-at-arms who for anything they could give would go on such an expedition.

937. The king urgently renews the request. Hereford, 1 Feb. 1322

938. The prior again pleads inability, and sends one of themselves, Robert de Morton, to explain.

939. Robert de Morton presents an important letter to the King. The text of the latter half is rather obscure. It describes the sufferings of Worcester, and alludes to the King's visit to Worcester.

940. A corrody granted to a chaplain in return for 20 marks down and for taking daily celebrations as directed by the Convent. 21 Dec. 1321

Folio CV.

941. A deed by which, in return for 20 marks paid to them, the convent guarantees to Robert de Boys a corrody for life and a dwelling—*domicilium*—in the city. 7 Feb. 1322

942. An exchange of benefices between the Rector of Icomb and the Vicar of Saltford. 21 March 1322

943. The King directs the bishop to summon representatives to a Parliament to be held at York, beginning on Easter Day [Ap. 11], to last 3 weeks. Derby, 14 March 1322

944. The prior appoints Thomas of Evesham and John of Evesham—*conjunctim et divisim*—as his proctors. 13 Ap. 1322

Folio CV. d.

945. The convent appoint Richard of Haukeslowe and Henry of Ouleye as their proctors. 25 Ap. 1322

946. A corrody is granted to Peter de Greet and his mother in return for £40. Peter is to collect all rents in the city and be the general agent for the convent. 16 May 1322

947. Manumission. 1322

Folio CVI.

948. The convent, in return for 200 marks and 10 quarters of wheat, grant corrodies, including St. Oswald's chamber, to John of Broadwas and John son of Margerie of House. 5 July 1322

949. An exchange of benefices between the Rector of Pedmore and the Vicar of Bromsgrove. 22 July 1322

950. An exchange of benefices between the Rector of St. Clement's, Worcester, and the Vicar of Tibberton. 21 March 1323

Folio CVI. d.

951. Confirmation by convent of a deed of bishop Cobham appropriating the church of Wolford to the house of the Scholars of Merton in his manor of Maudone in the diocese of Winchester. 22 July 1322

952. The Archbishop requests the prior to send him back his bond to return a mitre that had been lent him: the mitre having been long ago returned to the bishop. Wingham, 30 Aug. 1322

953. The prior replies that the bishop refuses to return them the mitre, and asserts that it is in the cathedral.

Folio CVII.

954. The bishop authorizes the admission of William of Cleeve as monk.
Hembury *in salso marisco* 23 Oct. 1322

955. The archbishop summons the representatives of the clergy to meet at Lincoln on Jan. 14, 1323, to consider action in face of urgent perils from the Scots. Lincoln, 2 Dec. 1322

Folio CVII. d.

956. The Chapter appoint as their proctor in convocation John called Geraud of Stratford, Rector of Overbury, and report to the archbishop.
1 Jan. 1323

957. The prior also writes nominating Thomas of Evesham, John called Geraud, and John of Evesham, Clerks, as his proctors. 1 Jan. 1323

958. The King orders that the corrody vacated by the death of Peter Davillers should be given to Alicia Conan. 29 Dec. 1322
[Full abstracts of the Alicia Conan letters are given in the Paper on Corrodies in our Transactions for 1917.]

959. The Queen also appeals for the same. Clipsham, 4 Jan. 1323

960. Hugh le Despenser writes in the same sense. 30 Dec. 1322

Folio CVIII.

961. The convent grant a corrody to John Worland which he shall receive at the hands of the *magister operum*. 7 Feb. 1323

962. Three manumissions: the deed recited in full. 1323

963. Lease of land prescribing with some detail the heriots and *relevium*—fine on renewal—paid by a feudal tenant. 7 Feb. 1323

Folio CVIII. d.

964. Lease of land in "Bedewurchyn" (St. John's) near the *vivarium* and the King's road to Hereford. Bedwardine, 23 Feb. 1323

965. Corrody to Godfrey de Holyne, wife and son, including an allowance of red herrings—*alecia rubra*—in Lent. March 1322

966. The Queen writes on behalf of Alicia Conan.
Tower of London, 12 Feb. 1323

Folio CIX.

967. The convent objects to the presence of ladies in the convent, and offers 10 marks a year. 28 Feb. 1323

968. The scholars of Merton send two of their fellows with a proposal to appropriate some scholarships in their house to students from the diocese of Worcester. Oxford, 14 June 1323

969. The Queen writes again on behalf of Alicia Conan.
Tower of London, 15 March 1323

970. The convent reply as before. 29 March 1323

Folio CIX. d.

971. The convent confirms a grant of land at Tatlinton by Hawysia of Gloucester to the Convent of Evesham. 3 April 1323

972. The bishop assents to the admission of Thomas de Acton as a monk.
Blackley, 6 Ap. 1323

973. The King demands a corrody for Alicia Conan, with a threat if it is refused. Langley, 25 Ap. 1323

974. The Convent adhere to their refusal. 3 May 1323

Folio CX.

975. The Queen writes in the same sense as the King.
Oakham, 27 Ap. 1323

976. The convent replies as before.

977. Hugh le Despenser also appeals to the convent.
Rockingham, 27 April 1323

978. Manumissions. 1323

979. The bishop consults the prior as to an appointment of his bailiff for Oswaldslawe. London, 6 May 1323

980. Corrody granted to William of Hampton, Chaplain, in return for 40 marks. 22 May 1323

Folio CX. d.

981. The King writes imperatively as to Alicia Conan.
Rothwell, 3 May 1323

982. The convent give a full and reasoned reply.

983. The Queen also writes in a severe tone. Rothwell, 16 May 1323

984. The convent replies as to the King.

Folio CXI.

985. The King requests the convent to send carriages for transport to Newcastle on Tyne by St. John Baptist's day, to aid in his Scotch war. Colwyke, 10 May 1323

986. The convent have no horses, and are in much distress, but they will send 10 marks.

987. Hugh le Despenser repeats the King's request. York, 3 May 1323

988. The convent replies as above.

Folio CXI. d.

989. Manumission. 1323

990. Lease of land in the manor of Cleeve. 27 June 1323

991. The King threatens proceedings against the convent as disturbers of his rights in refusing to admit Alicia Conan. Bishopthorpe, 5 June 1323

992. Letter 995 belongs here by its date. 8 June 1323

993. A suggested reply to the King (probably not sent). 25 June 1323

Folio CXII.

994. The convent's reply to the King maintaining their legal position.

995. The Queen's letter. Bishopthorpe, 8 June 1323

996. The Convent's reply to the Queen.

997. Manumission. 1323

Folio CXII. d.

998. The endowment of a chantry in the church of Blockley. 2 Sep. 1320

999. The King writes peremptorily that they shall admit Alicia Conan. Barnard Castle, 6 Sep. 1323

1000. The convent refuse, and suggest that she should go to the nunnery at Nuneaton.

Folio CXIII.

1001. The Queen writes that the King must be obeyed. Hatfield, 12 Sep. 1323

1002. The convent sends two of their brethren to explain to her. She is at the Franciscan House at York.

1003. The Convent replies to a letter from the Chancellor Robert de Baldock.

1004. The King summons the prior to appear before him on Nov. 3. Skipton, 1 Oct. 1323

1005. A manumission confirmed. 1323

Folio CXIII. d.

1006. Confirmation of acknowledgment by the bishop of his bond to pay to Richard Haukeslowe 40 shillings a year. July 1323

1007. Commission by the bishop to John of Broadwas to examine 3 novices for admission. Hampton, 11 Nov. 1323

1008. Report by the Precentor of Glastonbury on the qualifications of a candidate for admission.

1009. The King demands a complete report of all pensions, corrodies, etc., with which the convent is charged. Holand, 14 Oct. 1323

1010. The prior's reply.

Folio CXIV.

1011. Leave is given to a monk, John de Walys, to remain at Abergavenny. 6 Dec. 1323

1012. Commission to consecrate an altar in the chapel of St. Giles at Hallow. 17 Feb. 1323

1013. Lease of land in Cherltone. 7 April 1324

1014. The King writes indignantly at the delay in admitting Alicia Conan. Berkeley, 5 Feb. 1324

1015. The convent refers to the recent pleading and the King's promise.

Folio CXIV. d.

1016. The Queen writes in the same tone. Berkeley, 11 Feb. 1324

1017. The convent in their reply refer to Oswald their founder and the Charter of Edgar.

1018. The convent accepts the bishop of Winchester as arbiter as to the indemnity to be paid them for consenting to appropriate the Church of Cerney Milonis (South Cerney) to the convent of Gloucester.

1019. The King writes again about Alicia Conan. Westminster, 8 March 1324

1020. The Convent pleads poverty once more.

Folio CXV.

1021. The Queen writes in the same sense. Westminster, 14 March 1324

1022. The convent makes a similar reply.

1023. Presentation to the Church of St. Andrew's, Worcester. 29 March 1324

1024. An exchange between the Rector of Sedgebarrow and the Rector of East Tilbury in the diocese of London. 18 April 1324

1025. An exchange between the Rector of St. Swithin, Worcester, and the Rector of Langele in the diocese of London. Cromdon, 2 Ap. 1324

1026. Richard of Chaddesley, clerk, swears to serve and advise the convent faithfully. 5 March 1324

Folio CXV. d.

1027. The convent acknowledges receipt from Simon of Wolford, of £50, part of £200 awarded in King's Bench, and remits the rest. 17 Ap. 1324

1028. Testimonial to a young clerk, Robert de Henley, sent to the Abbot of Westminster. 16 Ap. 1324

1029. The King refuses the 10 marks, demands £10, and in default summons the prior and 4 others to appear (*see* 986). 21 April 1324

1030. Reply of prior: he will attend and plead.

Folio CXVI.

1031. The Queen also writes. Berkhampstead, 21 Ap. 1324

1032. The prior's reply.

1033. Manumission. 1324

1034. The pleading in the case of Alicia Conan concluded and the prior is successful. The King now asks for any reasonable sustenance. Tower of London, 17 June 1324

1035. The prior replies that they cannot allow a permanent charge to be created, but that they will make an annual grant to Alicia if the King gives them a charter under the great seal that their house at Worcester shall henceforth be free from such charges.

Folio CXVI. d.

1036. The Queen echoes the King's letter. Westminster, 17 June 1324

1037. The convent replies.

1038. Former manumissions confirmed. June 1324

Folio CXVII.

1039. Corrody and lodging in the Painted Chamber granted to John of Bitterley. 15 July 1324

1040. Manumission. 1324

1041. Manumissions. 1324

1042. The Bishop requests the Chapter to confirm his lease of a manor in Aston Episcopi, from which his returns had been small. Bredon, 7 Sep. 1324

Folio CXVII. d.

1043. The convent confirms the indenture as requested. 10 Sep. 1324

1044. A document bound in, of date 1332. The official of the Archdeacon summons abbots and others to appear in St. Paul's on 4 Sep. before the Archbishop and the Roman legate. Preston, 10 Aug. 1332

1045. The Queen thanks the prior for his gift to Alicia Conan, but it is not enough. Witley, 26 Sep. 1324

1046. A document bound in: an exchange of benefices between the rectors of Steyngreve (Stonegrave) in the diocese of York, and of Sedgebarrow. 30 Jan. 1325

Folio CXVIII.

1047. The convent replies to the Queen that they have done all they can. [This is the 51st and last letter; but see No. 1118.]

1048. The convent grant to Richard of Cradley, in return for 40 marks, one esterium (bushel) of corn every week. 1324

1049. The prior confirms a deed of the bishop's binding him to pay William de Peyto, clerk, 100 shillings annually till otherwise provided for.
Hembury in salso marisco, 22 Sep. 1324

1050. Presentation of Thomas of Southwark to Rectory of Sedgebarrow.
30 Jan. 1325

Folio CXVIII. d.

1051. Corrody granted to John Flemyng in return for £30. The *gustata* is explained as *videlicet galonem et dimidium*. 27 March 1325

1052. William de Sareshull, in return for being made a member of their spiritual fraternity, pledges himself to act for them in the King's court and elsewhere. 11 Ap. 1325

1053. The prior and chapter confer on Nicholas of Gore, clerk, a prebend in the church of Westbury, "*jure devoluto* belonging for this occasion to our collation or provision." 13 May 1325

1054. Robert of Clifton is charged with the duty of instituting Nicholas of Gore to a prebend at Westbury. 13 May 1325

1055—1062. Manumissions from June 1327 to Sep. 1327.

Folio CXIX.

1063. Confirmation by the prior and chapter of the appropriation of the Church of Cerney Milonis to the Abbey of Gloucester. Income of Vicar secured. 2 Oct. 1324

1064. The Abbot of Gloucester promises half a mark annually as a contribution to the upkeep of the fabric of Worcester Cathedral.
Gloucester, 7 March 1325

Folio CXIX. d.

1065. A formal receipt is given for the half mark. 8 March 1325

Folios CXIX. d. and CXX.

1066. A lengthy document, extending to CXX. d. Walter of Boroughton, Vicar of Erdington, wishes to found a chantry in the parish Church of Erdington; and he transmits through the bishop license from the King, the approval of the Convent of Evesham, and the Rector of Boroughton. The deeds of gift and appropriation of patronage, and the sanction of the bishop and the chapter. 9 Ap. 1325

Folio CXXI.

1067. The King requests the convent to consent to the appropriation of the church of Snitterfield to the prior and canons of St. Sepulcre, Warwick. Beaulieu, 9 Ap. 1325

1068. Walter, bishop of Exeter (the King's treasurer), makes the same request. Hareford, *juxta Abbathiam de bello loco*, 9 Ap. 1325

1069. The King repeats the request, and sends his clerk William de Walleye.
Winchester, 3 May 1325

1070. Hugh le Despenser writes somewhat urgently.
Winchester, 3 May 1325

1071. The bishop of Exeter writes in the same sense.
Winchester, 4 May 1325

Folio CXXI. d.

1072. The King writes a third time, assuring them that the advowson of the living is in the bishop's hands. Chertsey, 28 May 1325

1073. Hugh le Despenser again writes to urge the settlement.
Chertsey, 28 May 1325

1074. The bishop of Worcester entrusts to his Clerks, Nicholas of Gore and John of Barneby, jointly with the prior and chapter, the duty of examining into the facts and deciding. Hartlebury, 5 June 1325

1075. The prior and chapter acknowledge to the bishop the receipt of the mandate. 5 June 1325

1076. The prior writes to the King that a majority of the chapter consent, 5 others named refuse, and 3 or 4 others will only consent if the bishops of Winchester and Hereford will do so.

Folio CXXII.

1077. The prior writes a similar letter to the bishop of Exeter and requests instructions how to act: "how they can be most suitably restrained from opposition." 13 June 1325

1078. The bishop recites the grounds for the appropriation of Snyteffelde in a deed sent to the chapter for confirmation—the prior and chapter confirm it with the reservation "so far as they are rightly and canonically made, and do not prejudice our church of Worcester."
12 June 1325

Folio CXXII. d.

1079. The prior and chapter confirm a deed of the bishop which sanctions a further endowment of the Chantry of the Virgin in the church at Hartlebury to the memory of John of Rodborough, formerly Rector.
7 June 1325

1080. Manumission. 1328

Folio CXXIII.

1081. Lease of a Mill at Hampton on Avon by the bishop. Confirmed in Chapter. 7 July 1325

1082. Corrody granted to Henry of Hampton. (It is not quite the same as that in 891.) 7 July 1325

Folio CXXIII. d.

1083. The prior and convent earnestly request Richard of Bromwich, formerly their lecturer, now prior of Abergavenny, to return. 1325

1084. The Convent offer to Richard's brother Henry a liberal corrody if he will come to attend upon Richard. 8 Sep. 1325

Folio CXXIV.

1085. The prior and convent request the abbot of Dore and the prior of Abergavenny to decide the amount of the indemnity to be paid them by the Cistercian monastery of Hailes on the appropriation of the church of Longdon. 9 Sep. 1325

1086. Robert of Worcester pledges himself to faithful service. 29 Sep. 1325

1087. Corrody and payment to be given to Robert of Worcester, the pension being 5 marks. 21 Sep. 1325

1088. Robert of Worcester voluntarily remits two marks out of the pension. 22 Sep. 1325

Folio CXXIV. d.

1089. Confirmation by the chapter of Worcester of a deed permitting Thomas of Pakynton the right of founding a chantry in the Chapel of Chelmescote in the parish of Brailes. 30 Sep. 1325

1090. Confirmation of the appropriation of Longborough to the abbot and convent of Hailes. 30 Sep. 1325

Folio CXXV.

1091. The abbot of Dore and prior of Abergavenny decide the matter submitted to them in 1085. The indemnity is fixed at 20 shillings annually.

Folio CXXV. d.

1092. The convent of Hailes accept the decision and pay the 20 shillings. Hailes, 29 Sep. 1325

1093. The prior acknowledges the receipt. 1 Oct. 1325

1094. Confirmation of the founding of a chantry in the church of St. Nicholas, Warwick. 11 Oct. 1325

Folio CXXVI.

1095. (An inserted slip belonging to A.D. 1332.)
A deed concerning payments to the prioress of Cookhill from the church of Bishampton. 9 April 1332

Folio CXXVI. d.

1096. An exchange between the rural Dean of Fordham in the diocese of Norwich and the Rector of Sedgebarrow. 14 Dec. 1325

1097. A corrody granted to William Outrich and his wife in return for certain lands. Tymberdene, Jan. 1326

Folio CXXVII.

1098. A lease of tenements in Worcester close to the palace describing the boundaries of it. 25 March 1326

1099. A lease of land in High Street with description of its boundaries. March 1326

1100. Resignation of the Vicar of Hallow. Hallow, 2 Ap. 1326

Folio CXXVII. d.

1101. Presentation of Thomas of Stoke, chaplain, to the Vicarage of Hallow. 3 Ap. 1326

1102. The bishop informs the prior that the Abbot of Evesham pleads distress, and that they ask that the church of Ombersley may be appropriated to them: he appoints a commission of enquiry. Hartlebury, 19 March 1326

1103. The convent replies that the grounds urged are true, and that when a suitable indemnity is arranged they will consent. 26 April 1326

1104. The abbot and convent of Evesham—*ecclesie Romane immediate subjecti*—assign 40 shillings annually as an indemnity to the church of Worcester. Evesham, 6 May 1326

Folio CXXVIII.

1105. The appropriation of the church of Ombersley to the convent of Evesham is confirmed by the chapter; a stipend of 20 marks reserved for the Vicar. 2 May 1326

Folio CXXVIII. d.

1106. A lengthy abstract of a lawsuit respecting tax claimed by the sheriff for the king from the prior on land said to be held by the prior at Bromsgrove. Settled in favour of the prior. 1326

Folio CXXIX.

1107. Report of assize held at Worcester.

1108. Dispute between prior and others concerning land at Fladbury. Settled at assize in favour of prior.

1109. The prior and convent sell for 40 marks the right to receive one strike (bushel) of good wheat every week for life. 7 Oct. 1326

1110. The convent present to the bishop John of Gloucester, presbyter, for institution to the wardenship of the hospital of the blessed Mary of Wych. 7 Oct. 1326

Folio CXXIX. d.

1111. The convent appoint Robert of Clifton their proctor to attend the archbishop's council of clergy. 7 Oct. 1326

1112. Bull of Pope John XXII. respecting outrage on William Galoun, clerk. Avignon, 4 June 1326

1113. The execution of the bull. Three presbyters and a woman were charged, and a commission of men and women was appointed to enquire into the facts. 10 Oct. 1326

Folio CXXX.

1114. The chapter confirm the founding of a chantry in Blockley church by Ralph de Baketon. 21 Oct. 1326

1115. The abbot of St. Mary's convent, Bordesley, in return for favours from Master Henry of Hampton, rector of Lighthorne, endows one monk for ever to celebrate mass for him; the appointment to vest in the prior of Worcester after Henry's death. Bordesley, 28 Oct. 1326

Folio CXXX. d.

1116. Lease of tenements in Worcester near the bishop's hall and cemetery with some details (*cf.* 1098-9). 15 Dec. 1326

1117. The church of Ombersley pays indemnity of 2 shillings to the convent of Worcester. 18 Dec. 1326

Folio CXXXI.

1118. The prior and convent, *intuitu caritatis*, grant to Alicia Conan £10 a year on condition that they shall not in future be burdened with a similar corrody. 14 Ap. 1327

1119. Presentation of a clerk to Henry of Hampton's chantry at Bordesley by the prior of Worcester. 27 May 1327

1120. Reply from the abbot of Bordesley. 1327

1121. The bishop appoints a commission to report on a request from the abbot of Pershore for the appropriation to them of St. Andrew's, Pershore. Hartlebury, 7 Aug. 1327

1122. The prior reports to the bishop that the enquiry has been held, and the appropriation allowed when an indemnity has been agreed upon. 8 Aug. 1327

Folio CXXXI. d.

1123. The bishop requests the convent to confirm his granting freedom to Osbert Spelly of Claines. Hartlebury, 2 Aug. 1327

1124. The freedom is confirmed by the convent. 10 Aug. 1327

1125. Edward III. assures the prior that the grant of £10 annuity to Alicia Conan shall not be used as a precedent. [This closes a long correspondence.] 1 July 1327

Folio CXXXII.

1126. The bishop's lease of his manor of Bibury to Simon of Evesham is confirmed by chapter. 28 June 1327

1127. Lease by the bishop to the prior and convent of land in Northwick. Hartlebury, 16 Aug. 1327

1128. Indemnity on appropriation of St. Andrew's, Pershore, fixed at one mark. Pershore, 24 Aug. 1327

Folio CXXXII. d.

1129. Pledge by Thomas the Goldsmith, clerk, to give faithful advice to the prior and convent. 25 May 1328

1130. Pension of 2 marks granted to Thomas the Goldsmith. 25 May 1328

Folio CXXXIII.

1131. Pension of a hundred shillings to Richard of Gloucester as long as he pleads for them in the Court of Arches. 10 April 1328

1132. Similar pension of 5 marks to John of Shoreditch (Schordyche) for pleading in the same court. 10 April 1328

1133. Adam, bishop of Worcester (the first mention), appoints Adam of Harvington to examine a monk for admission. Cleeve, 13 Ap. 1328

1134. The king requests the prior to admit Henry of Lichfield as a monk. Randolf Lench, 22 June 1328

1135. The king repeats the request. Burton on Trent, 16 July 1328

1136. The prior replies that his enquiries shew that Henry's character is unsuitable. 19 July 1328

Folio CXXXIII. d.

1137. The king replies that he well understands, and holds the prior excused. Nottingham, 22 July 1328

1138. Presentation to the church of St. Clement's. 22 Aug. 1328

1139. The bishop orders the prior to induct and instal Joceus of Kynebauten, *utriusque juris professor*, as Archdeacon of Gloucester. Beaumes, 22 Aug. 1328

1140. Manumissions (4). 1328

1141. Exchange between the rector of St. Swithin's, Worcester, and the Vicar of Stottesdon in the diocese of Hereford, Philip Gosygton. 17 Nov. 1328

1142. Philip takes the usual oath. 19 Nov. 1328

Folio CXXXIV.

1143. The abbot of Ramsey, president of the General Chapter, summons a meeting to be held at Abingdon on the Wednesday after the feast of the Annunciation. The chapter has not met for a long time. London, 20 Feb. 1328

1144. The bishop of Worcester requests the convent to admit his friend Reginald de Thurtlestane as a monk. Beaumes, 12 March 1329

1145. The prior courteously refuses, since Reginald on examination proves to be insufficiently qualified. 1329

Folio CXXXIV. d.

1146. The convent awards a pension of 5 marks to John of Offord for services while advocate in the Court of Arches. 4 March 1329

1147. The bishop authorizes the prior to admit Nicholas of Stanlake as a monk. *Bellum Mansum*, 25 Ap. 1329

1148. The convent award a pension of two marks a year to William of Abergavenny for service and advice. 29 Ap. 1329

1149. William of Abergavenny takes the usual pledge. Oxford, 7 May 1329

1150. Manumission. 1329

1151. A corrody of food granted to Geoffrey the Mercer of Worcester, *intuitu caritatis*. 18 June 1329

1152. An exchange of benefices between the Rector of Icombe and the Rector of Nettlecombe in the diocese of Bath and Wells. 7 Aug. 1329

Folio CXXXV.

1153. Presentation of William de Malesoveres to the Vicarage of Hallow. 14 Oct. 1329

1154. John de Bosco pledges himself to give faithful attendance in the art and office of medicine. 2 Dec. 1329

1155. Details of corrody and stipend assigned to John de Bosco. 2 Dec. 1329

1156. Manumission. 1330

Folio CXXXV. d.

1157. Thomas, bishop of Hereford, urgently requests the prior to admit his dear friend William, son of Elias de Wyke, as a monk. Presteburg, 15 July 1330

1158. The prior and convent to the prior of Christchurch, Canterbury, requesting him and his chapter to confirm the appropriation to them of the church of Dodderhill. 23 Sep. 1330

1159. Manumission. 1330

1160. The prior and convent grant to Robert atte Wode and his wife Joanna, for a certain sum of money paid down, ten pounds a year secured on their rents at Wolverley. 28 Sep. 1330

1161. Exchange of benefices between the Vicars of Grimley with Hallow and Tibberton. 6 Oct. 1330

Folio CXXXVI.

1162. Confirmation by the chapter of the appropriation of the church of Duntesborne Militis to the abbot and convent of the Cistercian monastery of Dore. 17 Nov. 1330

Folio CXXXVI. d.

1163. Confirmation of the appropriation of the church of Tredington to the prior and convent of Lanthony. 19 Nov. 1330

1164. The convent of Lanthony pay an indemnity of 40 pence a year, and pledge themselves to a further payment of 40 pence a year. Lanthony, 15 Jan. 1331

Folio CXXXVII.

1165. The prior and convent acknowledge the receipt of both sums of 40 pence from the prior of Lanthony. 17 Jan. 1331

1166. The bishop decides a question that divided the monastery, whether prior Wulstan, having been elected bishop of Worcester and confirmed by the metropolitan, and having exercised episcopal jurisdiction, could return to the priorate and claim obedience. Kempsey, 10 Nov. 1330

Folio CXXXVII. d.

1167. The bishop authorizes the prior to receive confessions and grant absolution, even in cases reserved for him. *Bellum Mansum*, 21 Dec. 1330

1168. (An inserted slip.) An earnest appeal from the prior to the bishop to hasten the appropriation of Dodderhill. 9 July (? 1330)

1169. Simon, Vicar of Clifton on Teme, in return for £10 in cash receives a corrody for life of one monk's loaf a day. Feb. 1331

1170. The convent let to Thomas the Tinker an acre of meadow in Hulton Street for 20 years at 20 shillings a year. May 1331

Folio CXXXVIII.

1171. The bishop directs the prior to instal John of Usk as Archdeacon of Gloucester. Blockley, 25 May 1331

1172. The prior certifies to the bishop that John of Usk was duly installed. 4 June 1331

1173. The chapter confirms a deed by which Adam, bishop of Worcester, allows John, bishop of Winchester, to assign the manor of Inge in Warwickshire as part of endowment of a chantry in the aisle of the parish church of Stratford on Avon. 16 June 1331

1174. Manumissions. 1331

Folio CXXXVIII. d.

1175. The bishop orders the prior to instal Roger of Breynton as Archdeacon of Gloucester, he having exchanged with John of Usk. Hartlebury, 21 June 1331

1176. Roger of Breynton appoints Robert of Lavington as his proctor to be installed. Hartlebury, 22 Jan. 1332

1177. Corrody granted to Michael of Cropthorne. 30 June 1330

1178. Corrody granted to Adam of Wodehall, including an allowance of wheat and a robe, with continuance to his son. 7 July 1331

1179. Manumissions (2). 1331-2

Folio CXXXIX.

1180. Confirmation of deed of the bishop authorizing an exchange of property in Old Stratford. 27 Oct. 1331

1181. Confirmation of quit-claim given by the bishop to the bishop of Winchester respecting property in Stratford. 27 Oct. 1331

1182. Confirmation of grant of land in Stratford on Avon to the bishop of Winchester. 27 Oct. 1331

Folio CXXXIX. d.

1183. A request from the abbot and convent of Westminster for the appropriation of the church of Longdon, based on an agreement of fraternity between Westminster and Worcester. Westminster, 25 Oct. (? 1331)

1184. A guarded and somewhat obscure reply from the prior of Worcester. (See 1261.) 10 Nov. (? 1331)

Folio CXL.

1185. A deed by Johanna Talbot granting certain lands in Northwick to the prioress and nuns of Whiston: confirmed by the bishop and the chapter. 8 Dec. 1331

1186. Note of payment of rent and arrears for a tenement in Nildarestrete. Christmas 1331

1187. Manumission. 1331

1188. Confirmation by the chapter of the appropriation of the church of Bishampton to the prioress and nuns of the Benedictine monastery of Cookhill. (See 1095.) 18 Jan. 1332

Folio CXL. d.

1189. The nuns of Cookhill bind themselves to pay as indemnity an annual pension of one mark. Cookhill, Dec. 1331

1190. A formal receipt for this pension from the prior dated 31 Jan. 1332

Folio CXLI.

1191. Confirmation by chapter of grant of land in Shotteridge (Shottery) by the bishop to Robert of Stretford. Feb. 1332

1192. A similar confirmation of a deed granting a tenement in Shotteridge to John, bishop of Winchester. Feb. 1332

Folios CXLI. d. and CXLII.

1193. A very long and interesting deed in which John of Stratford, bishop of Winchester, founds a chantry in the church of Stratford on Avon. March 1332

Folio CXLII. d.

1194. Manumission. 1332

1195. The convent in return for 42 marks grant to William de Lyndene one strike of corn every week for life. 10 June 1332

1196. Manumissions (2). 1332

1197. Manumissions (2). 1332

(Folios 151—162 should be bound here.)

Folio CXLIII.

1198. The bishop, Simon de Monteacute, appoints two clerks, John of Clipstone and Henry of Newbold, to see that the matters still needing correction after his visitations are attended to. Bredon, 6 Ap. 1334

1199. The chapter report to the bishop that the replies made by the prior entirely satisfy them. 10 Ap. 1334

1200. The confirmation of the founding of a chantry in the church of Ripple.
(It is of special interest from the details it contains as to the furniture of a house and implements for a farm. It is of great length;
1201. and as the ink faded it was all written again as 1201 on folios CXLIV. to CXLVI.) 8 Jan. 1335

Folio CXLVI. a.

(This folio and those which follow to 150 are subsequent to 162.)

1202. The formal appointment of N. Mauricius, the sub-prior, and Henry Fouke to represent the convent in the Holy Roman Court. 25 Aug. 1336

Folio CXLVI. d.

1203. The appointment of John of Walton and John of Cleeve to act as their proctors. 1 Sep. 1336

1204. After much altercation and many *dies amoris* John Godard did homage to the prior in his manor of Crowle for land held from the prior in his manor of Newenham. 16 Sep. 1336

Folio CXLVII.

1205. Corrody granted to Simon Gros, citizen of Worcester, and Margaret his wife, in return for 126 marks. Special securities given that they shall have the best beer. 8 Sep. 1336

1206. Presentation of Robert of Alveston, Chaplain, to the church of Knightwick. 11 Dec. 1336

1207. Confirmation by chapter of a deed of bishop Simon granting land near Hampton Episcopi free for six years to Walter de Morton, parson of Hampton. 4 Feb. 1337

Folio CXLVII. d.

1208. Johanna Talebot, Lady of Richard's Castle, requests the prior and convent to present her clerk, Master Peter of Wynbrok, to the church of All Saints, now vacant. Wycheband, 10 Feb. 1337

1209. The prior and convent present to the bishop Peter of Wynbrok, clerk, for institution to the church of All Saints. 17 Feb. 1337

1210. Free and honourable lodging in the priory, with a servant and a horse, granted to Philip le Yonge of Bromyard in accordance with the grace conceded to him by the Court of Rome. 6 Feb. 1337

1211. An excommunication of the heirs and successors of W. Bagod and John Curby, lords of Lockesley, for detaining rents due to the Camerarius. 18 Feb. 1337

1212. Manumission. 1337

1213. Grant of a plot of land in the borough of Warwick, with some local details. 17 May 1337

Folio CXLVIII.

1214. Manumission. 1337

1215. In return for 24 marks the convent grant a corrody for life to Felicia de la Felde. 23 Aug. 1337

1216. Confirmation of grant of land in Stratford, with local details. 15 June 1337

Folios CXLVIII. d. and CXLIX.

1217. The foundation by Isolde of Audeley of a chantry at the altar of St. Thomas the Martyr and St. Katherine in the church of the Assumption of the Virgin at Estyntone (Eastington). This lengthy deed contains many points of special interest. 24 Feb. 1338

1218. Manumission. 1338

1219. Corrody granted to John de Logwarden, doctor of the art of medicine, in detail. 24 June 1338

Folio CXLIX. d.

1220. Dispute as to common rights of pasture between the parson of Toddington and the abbot of Hailes, settled by arbitration. Hailes, 18 Oct. 1337

1221. An acknowledgment of debt of £20 to Hugh of Cokesey. (This is out of place, being dated 14 Jan. 1334.)

Folio CL. (This folio should follow folio 160.)

1222. Renunciation of all rights and claims in Battenhall, Newberne and Tymberdene by John le Mercer in consideration of a payment of 40 marks a year for his life. 4 Dec. 1338

1223. John the Mercer grants 31s. 4d. of annual rent for his lands and tenements in Worcester to the convent. 4 Dec. 1338

1224. John the Mercer remits 10 out of 50 marks owing to him if the 40 are paid within a fortnight of the appointed time. 5 Dec. 1338

1225. A further concession by John the Mercer. 5 Dec. 1338

Folio CL. d.

1226. Plea of prior at York before J. of Stonor and other justices of the King's Bench. Nov. 1337

1227. J. de E., perpetual Vicar of A., charged with and confessed adultery. He completed his penance and was discharged.

Folio CLI.

1228. A retiring pension of £20 a year, out of a prebend at Westbury, paid to Thomas of Orlton, the retiring prebendary. 19 Oct. 1332

1229. W. de Hedingdone resigns the Rectory of Winterbourne, where he has built the church, on a pension of £20. 20 Oct. 1332

1230. Lease of land in Sedgebarrow, with condition that the land may not pass into the hands of certain enemies of the church. 8 Dec. 1332

Folio CLI. d.

1231. Lease of land as above with other conditions.

1232. Corrody granted to Roger Guaybon. 8 Dec. 1332

1233. A deed granting to Simon Crump, a fellow monk, the services and support of a clerk. Simon is also released from some religious duties. 10 Jan. 1333

Folio CLII.

1234. Worcester Assize. The prior makes good his claim for property and damages, ten shillings. Jan. 1332

1235. Lease of this property to Henry Sweter at 6s. 12 March 1333

Folios CLII. d. and CLIII.

1236. An assize case like 1234. 16 Ed. III. [1333]

1237. Corrody granted to Peter de Greet and his wife for 130 marks.

1238. Manumission. 1333

1239. Manumission. 1333

1240. The Pope, John XXII., at the request of the king orders the appropriation of Tetbury to the Benedictine convent of Eynesham, Oxford, and provides for a vicar. A.D. 1331. Confirmed 12 April 1332

Folio CLIII. d.

1241. Thomas of Evesham, rector of Badeby, appointed arbiter, fixes the indemnity for the above at 40 shillings. 1331

Folio CLIV.

1242. The abbot of Eynesham agrees to this indemnity. London, 7 Nov. 1331

1243. A duplicate of the preceding, almost word for word. Eynesham, 26 Dec. 1331

Folio CLIV. d.

1244. The prior acknowledges the receipt of 20 shillings, the first half-year's instalment of this indemnity. 10 March 1331

1245. The bishop lets out to farm the whole manor of Knightwick for 10 marks a year. 16 June A.D. 1332

Folio CLV.

1246. The bishop leases land in Blockley. Blockley, 11 Oct. 1332

1247. The bishop leases land in Northwick. 2 Feb. 1334

1248. The prior acknowledges the receipt of this deed from the bishop.

1249. The bishop sends holy water and authorises the prior to reconcile the Cathedral cemetery after effusion of blood. Hampton Episcopi, 16 Feb. 1334

1250. The prior and convent congratulate John de Stratford on promotion to Canterbury, and ask him to obtain the king's confirmation of the appropriation of Dodderhill. 25 Feb. 1334

Folio CLV. d.

1251. A gift of rent of two pence a year to the monastery. 11 Nov. A.D. 1333

1252. The convent leases some land near St. Martin's church for 4 shillings a year for sixty years. 22 Feb. 1334

Folio CLVI.

1253. The prior and convent present Thomas de Etton of Westbury, presbyter, to the vicarage of Cleeve Priors. 30 March 1334

1254. The prior and convent present Henry Geraud, presbyter, to the church of Overbury. 25 Ap. 1334

1255. Henry Geraud swears that he will render faithful service. 25 Ap. 1334

1256. The prior and convent present John of Dumbelton, presbyter, to the church of Sedgebarrow.

1257. Papal dispensation for illegitimacy to candidate for Holy Orders. Avignon, 23 March 1334

Folio CLVI. d.

1258. A corrody granted to Philip Draycote, including the *aysiamentum camere.* 2 March 1334

1259. Philip's oath of faithful service, and that he will not claim this till after the death of his present master, Sir William of Sareshulle. 25 June 1334

Folio CLVII.

1260. John of Walton appointed proctor for two years. 13 June 1334

1261. Appropriation of the church of Longdon to Westminster Abbey by order of Pope John XXII. at the request of the king; provision for vicar. 20 Jan. 1334.

Folio CLVIII.

1262. The abbot of Westminster offers indemnity of 40 shillings per annum on account of the above appropriation. 20 Oct. 1334

1263. Exchange between the Vicars of Garsington near Oxford and Icombe. Nov. 1334

1264. Manumission. 1334

Folio CLVIII. d.

1265. An assize held at Worcester before William de Shareshulle and Roger Hillary, Justices of our Lord the king. 1334

1266. The bishop claims the appointment to the office of sacrist, in spite of counterclaims, and insists on Simon Crump being Sacrist. 26 Jan. 1334

1267. Presentation of William of Hampton to the vicarage of Bromsgrove. 26 May 1335

1268. Grant to Walter of Langeneye of a corrody for life in return for 50 marks. A gyst defined as a gallon and a half. 9 June 1335

Folio CLIX.

1269. The deed of Thomas de Pakynton founding a chantry in the church of Brailes confirmed by the bishop and the chapter. 9 Jan. 1335

Folio CLIX. d.

1270. Presentation of Robert Mauricii to the vicarage of Lindridge. 19 Oct. 1335

1271. Manumission.

1272. Annual grant of a robe with fur to Simon Croule. 29 Oct. 1335

1273. The appropriation of the Parish Church of Kidderminster to St. Mary's hospital for female lepers at Maiden Bradley. 19 Nov. 1335

Folio CLX.

1274. The prior of Maiden Bradley pledges the convent to an indemnity of one mark. 19 Nov. 1335

Folio CLXI.

1275. Pleas at York before justices of the King's Bench. Easter 1334

Folio CLXI. d.

1276. Pleas before the same. 12 Nov. 1334

1277. Complaint of prior and convent to the archbishop of the falsehood and trickery of the prior of Great Malvern. 9 Jan. (?)

1278. Report of Assize touching land in Wyke: the prior recovers his holding and damages.

Folio CLXII.

1279. Report of Assize at Worcester. Feb. 1335

1280. Resignation of Simon de Halstede, Vicar of Yerdeleye (Yardley). Yerdeleye, 2 Jan. 1330 (*sic*) (? 1335)

1281. The bishop informs the prior that a *vir nobilis*, John de Beauchamp, has presented Roger of Richard's Castle to Yerdeleye, and that the prior and convent of Newport Pagnell also present, claiming the patronage. Alincestre (Alcester), July 1335

Folio CLXII. d.

1282. Memorandum that on 17 Feb. 1335 the prior and convent appointed Simon Crump cellerar. 17 Feb. 1335

1283. The bishop refuses to deprive Simon Crump of the office of sacrist, but allows him for a time to hold with it the office of cellerar. Alvechurch, 18 Feb. [1335]

1284. Memorandum of presentation of Richard de . . ., chaplain, to the vicarage of Tibberton. 24 Feb. 1335

1285. Manumissions.
Memoranda of six manumissions in 1335.

1286. Memorandum that Master John of Walton was appointed as proctor on Dec. 13, 1336, to hold it for 2 years.

INDEX.

The numbers are those of the documents.

D

H

I

J

K

L

M

APPENDIX

ON THE ACCOMPANYING FACSIMILE OF A PAGE OF THE LIBER ALBUS.

Folio XXVI. (a) is here reproduced. It is a fair specimen of some of the earlier folios, and is of the size of the original. The earliest folios are in ink that has somewhat faded. The later folios are on ruled lines, less crowded, and often very well written.

This folio includes the documents 351—364 inclusive. A transcription is given of 353 and 357, which may be compared with the abstracts, in order to illustrate the degree of compression which has been thought necessary in making the abstracts. 351 is interesting from its high-flown style. It begins, Amico pre ceteris speciali visionem beatam pro honore impenso multiplici.

353. *Littera Regis pro J. Treour de Bremesgrave.*

Edward, et cetera. Comme nous vous eussiens grant piecea* (*sic*) priez par nos lettres que vous receussez nostre ame valet Jon de Bremesgrave, valet de nostre hotellerie, porteur de ces lettres, pur li trover sa resonable sustenaunce de manger et de beyvere, de vesture et de chausure, en vostre dite mesun a tote sa vie, si come plus pleynement est contenuȝ en nos dites lettres, et vous ne eez uncore nostre dite priere acomplie, a ceo que nous avums entendu, de quey nous avums grant merveylle, vous maundums et chargeoums que au dit Jon facez trover de vostre dite meysoun a tote sa vie covenable sustenaunce de manger et de beyvere solont ceo que affert a sun estat, et li facez ausynt aver chaumbre convenable pur sa demoere, et xviii soldes par an pur sa robe et pur sa chausure, car tant ad il pris de nostre garderobe par an tant comme il ad demorez en nostre servise. Et cesti nostre maundement metez si volunters et si bonement en expleyt que le dit Jon sen deyne loer, et que nous vous empuyssums saver gre.

Done souz nostre prive seal a Oseneye le xxviii jour de Novembre le an de nostre regne xxxiiii.

357. *Littera missa episcopo cum Equo qui vocabatur Hoel.*

Reverendo in Christo patri ac domino, domino W. dei gratia Wigorniensi episcopo, frater J. humilis prior ejusdem loci in omnibus obedientiam et reverentiam debitam cum honore.

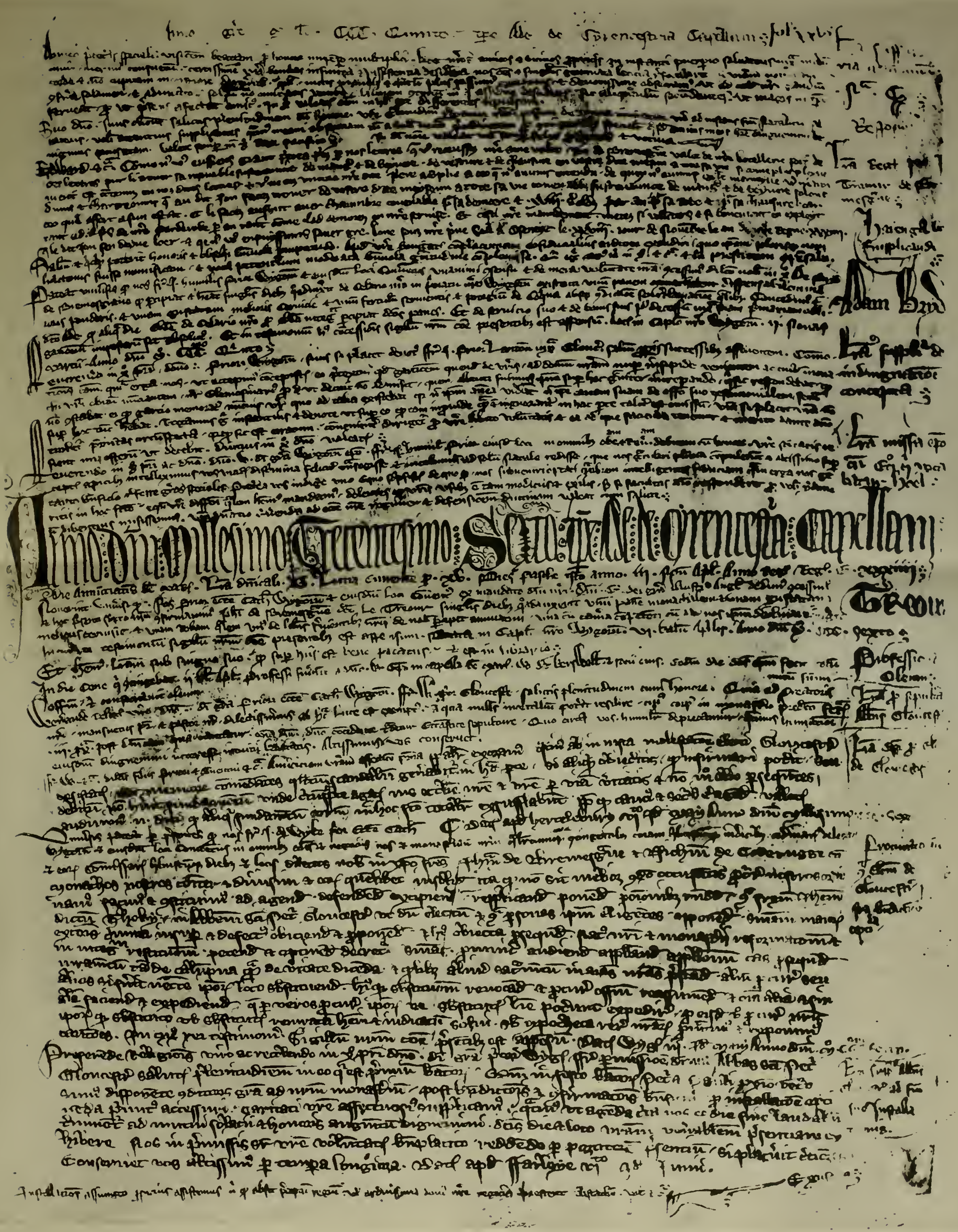
Vestre sanctitatis receptis apicibus intelleximus vos viarum discrimina feliciter transegisse, et incolumis ad solum natale redisse, que nos gratulari plurimum compulerunt, et Altissimo super tanto beneficio referre gratias speciales.

Preterea vos indigere uno equo scripsistis, de quo per nos subveniri optatis. Quamobrem, intelligentes fiduciam quam erga nos geritis in hoc facto, equum vestre dispositioni qualem habemus mandamus, dolentes quod vestris usibus est tam modicus et exilis: sed si facultas animo responderet pro vobis ydoneum libentius misissemus.

Vestra dominatio reverenda ad ecclesie nostre regimen et defensionem diutinam valeat cum salute.

The library is mentioned in 358, and the Ladye Chapel in 359.

* Probably for *grant piece a* = a long time since.—E.C.J.



Facsimile, in the size of the original, of Folio xxvi. r. of Liber Albus.

(From Phot. by Mr. A. Neale, Braemar, Worcester).

Date Due

Due	Returned	Due	Returned